UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE

Celebration Brochure

UWC RFC

65th

ANNIVERSARY

September 2025

UWC RFC 65th Anniversary

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UWC Rugby Football Club
University of the Western Cape
Bellville, South Africa

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Foreword

It began as a dream-turned-nightmare with the supposed 50th (in fact, 55th) UWC Rugby Football Club Anniversary in 2015. A decade later it has been transformed into a triumphant journey by one of our Captains of the 70's, John Walters, affectionately known as Kapoeza. He made a few calls to old rugby friends at the beginning of 2025 that set everything in motion for celebrating the 65th anniversary of UWC RFC.

His words in the invitational communiqué captured the hearts of the organisers: "We owe it to the Rugby Club to celebrate this event for it is a living club; a lasting club. The same Club exist . . . 65 years on. We owe it to ourselves to celebrate this event, our founding fathers (the Black Jerseys), our coaches, supporters, sport administrators, etc. We need to celebrate the University which decolonized our minds and we need to celebrate our fallen heroes."

Phone calls and WhatsApp messages immediately travelled wide and far across SA and Namibia and beyond the distant horizons. Responses were initially hesitant, but with the creation of various WhatsApp groups for the Organisers, the Regional Coordinators, the big general group of rugby players and supporters, excitement began to grow, building steadily into a joyful frenzy as the festival approached.

This brochure is a tapestry of voices, sometimes harmonious, sometimes contesting, that together bear testimony to the 65-year journey of the University of the Western Cape Rugby Club. It offers a glimpse into the resilience of its players, a story of defiance against apartheid's intentions. Though the threatened walk-off from campus, based on SACOS's principles, never materialised, the legacy of UWC Rugby lives on. Today, its products can be found in every corner of the country, engaged in coaching, administration, and the ongoing growth of the game.

A collection of this nature will inevitably contain gaps and omissions. We therefore warmly invite every reader to share additional information, anecdotes, and recollections of their time and association with UWC Rugby via the UWC Rugby WhatsApp

group. Through this collective effort, we can build a fuller, more accurate record of the proud history of UWC Rugby. We thank you in advance for your contributions.

The names included in this brochure largely reflect the preferences of individual contributors. We hope the online brochure will help to address any omissions. By making the brochure accessible to all UWC rugby players, supporters, and enthusiasts, we aim to create a living record that can be continually updated.

The Roll of Honour, capturing the names of all rugby players, past and present, will also be available online, ensuring that missing names can easily be added over time. Likewise, any spelling errors can be corrected with ease.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the eminent persons who grace this brochure and the Rugby Festival with their messages of support.

Gratitude is also due to those who provided written contributions: Arthur Willemse, Bernard Lysander Sheldon, Brian Wilson, Deon "Gawie" Carelse, Deon Davids, Desmond Grove, Donovan Schippers, Eddie Geduld, Gary Boshoff, Greg Voigt, Isaac Metembo, Jannie Frantz, Johann Mettler, Josie Ontong, Nic Kock, Niven Arendse, Norman Cloete, Phillip Jaftha, Ronnie Korkee, and Sylvan Blignaut.

We further acknowledge Jeffrey Abrahams and Donovan Schippers for their guidance with photographs, and offer special thanks to Donovan and all others who generously shared their photo collections. We are indebted to William Murray for designing the cover of this brochure.

A special word of thanks goes to the Brochure Task Team — Brian Wilson, Donovan Schippers, Ernest Messina, Gary Boshoff, Jannie Frantz, Norman Cloete, and Phillip Jaftha — for their many hours of sourcing contributions and ensuring this publication's completion.

In the same breath, we thank the Organising Committee — Brian Wilson, Clement Trout, Donovan Schippers, Fred Sefela, Jannie Frantz, John Walters, Phillip Jaftha, and Sas Bailey — whose unwavering support made its publication possible.

We want to single out Hein Willemse who edited and designed this brochure under severe time constraints.

Finally, a very special word of thanks to all spouses and partners for their patience, indulgence, and selfless support, without which none of this would have been possible.

— From the Brochure Task Team

Chairperson's Message

J.J. Bailey

As we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) Rugby Football Club, we honour not only the achievements of our club, players and officials, but also the rich history and legacy of UWC. The institution started out with humble beginnings as an institution for a section of the oppressed and disadvantaged, those officially classified as Coloured by the apartheid regime. Since its inception though UWC students and some of its staff defied the objectives and expectations of its oppressors. Time and time again the shackles of apartheid have regularly and consistently been challenged and broken. Generations of students rose up against oppressive practices.

From its humble beginnings as an institution for the oppressed and disadvantaged, the so called 'Coloured' Community, UWC has defied the expectations of its oppressors and broken the shackles of apartheid through the generations of students who rose up against oppressive practices, forging a path of excellence, pride, transformation, diversity and non-racialism. It took prolonged struggle and tribulations to rid the University legally of the status of being a 'Coloured' University. UWC has grown and is still growing into a truly South African University in its entire composition, of students, staff and especially in the way the institution conducts itself in the application of its philosophy.

UWC RFC played a leading role in this journey. Over the last six and a half decades character, integrity, discipline, loyalty, a sense of family and identity, teamwork, commitment and perseverance were instilled into its players, administrators and officials.

Today, UWC RFC stands proud as a testament to the power of sport, to transcend boundaries and unite people. Through rugby, we've helped shape future leaders, entrepreneurs, businesspeople, lawyers, educators, and changemakers who have gone on to make a substantive and positive impact in society, not just in South Africa and Namibia, but across the world.

I will refrain from singling out any individuals by name. All players and officials, individually and collectively contributed greatly with their respective exceptional talent, loyalty and dedication. Traditions which have stood the test of time. In doing so many of them in the early and subsequent years acted as pioneers to help establish and inculcate these values. These formed the basis for a truly remarkable proud and rich legacy which UWC RFC has become. We honour the great and exceptionally talented, loyal UWC RFC players and members, who acted as pioneers; and the many others over the years, who proudly contributed in building this rich and proud legacy, traditions and values of the University of the Western Cape Rugby Football Club.

As President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela so eloquently put it, "Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." This highlights the transformative power of sport, as embodied by UWC RFC's own history and legacy. It caters predominantly for the oppressed, but it is not an oppressed organisation. It is an organisation which despite all odds and disadvantages made a significant contribution in creating and building a new South African society.

Prof Jakes Gerwel, a former Vice-Chancellor of UWC, in his address to the SARU General Council at the Peninsula Technikon, Bellville, 29th November 1986 said that "non-racial sporting clubs and Unions have proved that we can play sport and in this instance rugby. That we can partake in them,

that we can make them our own, that we can play them without being slaves. We do it on our own terms; we play our sport the way that we want to play it. We play it as an expression

Sas Bailey

of ourselves, not an expression of other people and the way that other people want us to express ourselves".

It is in this light that we wish the leadership of UWC and the UWC RFC all the best going forward, especially in how they are going to build on this great legacy and traditions. In the process they must also ensure that the rugby club can play competitive rugby on a sustainable basis and take its rightful place amongst the top rugby playing universities in the country and senior rugby clubs in the Western Province RFU, so that more top professional rugby players and officials can and should be produced at UWC.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone for your input, support, generous donations, messages, and contributions that turned the dream of hosting the 65th UWC RFC Anniversary Festival into a reality. Our sincere thanks go to the Brochure Committee for coordinating the writing and compilation of this Anniversary Brochure, and to Hein Willemse for his careful editing and design.

We also acknowledge with appreciation Clement Trout and Elmien Cloete (Sports Administration), Fred Sefela and Nic Kock (UWC RFC), Vera Adams (Alumni Office) and Hardi Zacharias (UWC Events Office). Thank you for embracing this idea and for your invaluable cooperation.

Mark 9:23 reminds us: "And Jesus said to him, 'If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.'"

A special word of thanks is reserved for the Organising Committee members, John Walters, Phillip Jaftha, Jannie Frantz, Brian Wilson, Donovan Schippers, Clement Trout, Fred Sefela, and Nic Kock, for their unwavering commitment, dedication, and hard work. Your drive has carried this challenging but historic initiative forward, creating a moment of celebration in which every UWC RFC member and the wider University community can take pride. Let me say without fear of contradiction that it was an absolute privilege and pleasure to lead as Chairperson of the Organising Committee this group of dedicated, committed and passionate rugby personalities.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks to all our rugby alumni, mates, friends, and colleagues who have responded to our call, travelling from across South Africa and Namibia to celebrate this 65th milestone with us.

As Napoleon Hill so aptly wrote: "Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve."

UWC RFC—we salute you. May your legacy, values, and achievements continue to inspire generations to come!

Organising Committee
28 August 202

Messages of support

UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

University of the Western Cape
T: 021 959 3900/01/02/03
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As the University of the Western Cape celebrates its 65th Anniversary, we take pride in a journey that has carried us from our establishment in 1960 under apartheid to the vibrant, inclusive university we are today. Our story is one of resilience, transformation, and the pursuit of excellence. Within this story, rugby has always been more than a game — it has been a symbol of belonging, unity, and dignity.

Since its founding, the UWC Rugby Football Club (RFC) has played a defining role in campus life. During the years when our students were denied equal opportunities, rugby provided not only competition but also community, courage, and hope. Over time, it became a force for integration and social justice, demonstrating how sport could bridge divides and inspire change.

The RFC's proud legacy is written not only in memories but in the achievements of its players. Alumni such as Paul Treu, Kurt-Lee Arendse, Babalwa Latsha and Laurian Johannes-Haupt have worn the green and gold, carrying with them the values of perseverance and excellence forged at UWC. Their journeys remind us that from our campus fields have emerged leaders who embody the spirit of a transformed and unifying South Africa. It is through sport as well as academic life at UWC that important values such as solidarity, integrity, teamwork come together when identifying and working with each individual's strengths to create team cohesion, harmony and effectiveness.

Today, rugby at UWC continues to reflect our values of inclusivity, excellence, and community engagement. It has brought generations of students together and connected us with surrounding communities, while also positioning the University as a contributor to national sporting life. As we look to the future, UWC remains committed to growing sport that is both participative and competitive. Rugby will continue to stand at the centre of this vision. With sustained investment in facilities, coaching, and athlete development, we aspire to make the RFC a source of pride for our University and a formidable competitor nationally and internationally.

On this milestone, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the UWC Rugby Football Club and to all those — players, coaches, alumni, and supporters — who have built its proud legacy. May the 65th Anniversary not only celebrate how far we have come but also inspire future generations to carry the RFC spirit even further.

Happy 65th Anniversary, UWC RFC!

Prof. Robert Balfour
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA

It gives me tremendous pleasure to extend heartiest congratulations to my alma mater's rugby club on its 65th anniversary. As an avid rugby supporter and proud UWC alumnus, I celebrate with all of you this important milestone. Despite its abject history as an apartheid creation, UWC has made an indelible mark in this country's glorious history of overcoming against all odds in all facets of life, also in the one where I have been engaged in practice as an advocate and as a Judge in various courts for a total of 41 years now. And its sports teams were no exception! Like so many students during the turbulent 1980's, I found refuge in the magnificent exploits of our UWC sports teams, most notably that terrific all-conquering team with the likes of John Walters, Godfrey Thorne, Clive Smith, Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls and others. They were our heroes and the epitome of what can be achieved despite the shackles of oppression and deprivation. But for that hated system of separate, gross inequality of opportunity and means, most of these magnificent men would have represented their country in the green and gold. I salute those who have gone before and are still part of the club. Keep making us proud!

Steven Majiedt (UWC student 7901215E)
Justice of the Constitutional Court
Johannesburg

Message from the President of the South African Rugby Union

Mr. Mark Alexander

On the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of UWC Rugby Football Club

It is with great pride and admiration that I extend my warmest congratulations to the University of the Western Cape Rugby Football Club on the occasion of its 65th Anniversary.

This milestone is not merely a celebration of years passed—it is a tribute to the enduring spirit, resilience and excellence that have defined UWC RFC since its founding. Over six and a half decades, the club has stood as a beacon of opportunity and transformation, shaping the lives of thousands of players, students and alumni across South Africa and Namibia.

Importantly, UWC RFC played a pivotal role in South Africa's non-racial sporting movement during the apartheid era, standing firm in its commitment to inclusivity, dignity and justice. At a time when sport was used to divide, this club chose to unite—offering a platform for young men and women to compete, to lead and to dream beyond the boundaries imposed by a divided society. That legacy remains one of its proudest contributions to our nation's history.

UWC RFC's impact extends far beyond the rugby field. It has produced leaders on and off the pitch, fostered unity through sport and upheld the values of discipline, teamwork and community. In times of challenge and triumph alike, the club has remained steadfast in its commitment to development and excellence.

As we reflect on this remarkable journey, we also look forward—with confidence and hope—to the future chapters that UWC RFC will write. May this celebration inspire the next generation to carry the torch with pride and purpose.

On behalf of the South African Rugby Union, I salute the players, coaches, administrators and supporters who have built and sustained this proud institution. Your contribution to rugby and to society is immeasurable.

Congratulations once again on this historic occasion.

Warm regards,

Mark Alexander
President
South African Rugby Union

Heartfelt message of congratulations!

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt message of congratulations with this momentous celebration of 65 years of sporting achievement. I pen this message not only in my capacity as president of our beloved WP Rugby Union, but also as an alumnus of the university and as past player of the esteemed UWC rugby club. I am extremely proud of my association with UWC and acknowledge the profound effect the institution and specifically the rugby club has had on my life and growth as a leader in sport.

Allow me to acknowledge the spirit and perseverance of our club that not only served as a proud symbol through achievements on and off the field of play for many of us who will be celebrating this event in person, but also those members who are unable to make it in person as well as those who have passed on to higher service. We acknowledge the collective role the individual club members, club leaders and club played in our lives and confirm that it has left an indelible print in our hearts and lives. The institution and rugby club have further served as symbols of hope in our broader society and remain a source of sporting achievement and inspiration to our youth and communities at large.

The participation of our teams in the university sports arena has introduced our rugby club to the living rooms of every home in our country. It provides our players, coaches and administrators an opportunity to showcase their talents and skills on a national stage. It also confirms that our club, and the individuals associated with the club have over the past six decades been writing their own amazing success stories at local, national and international levels in sport, academia, business and society at large, which is evident by the attendees who will be partaking in

the celebrations. I wish our Springbok national captain, Ms Babalwa Latsha, a past player and LLB graduate of UWC well, as she leads our national team at the 2025 World Cup in England. Long may UWC be pioneers in the game of rugby to foster a diverse equal society in which we will all have equal opportunities, irrespective of colour, gender or standing in the community.

I proudly dedicate this message to the selfless leaders of UWC past and present, who fostered this inclusive society at our institution, UWC. I wish you well in the various events planned to celebrate this milestone and pray for eternal blessings on the club now and for many years to come.

KEVIN KIEWITZ: PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT: Kevin Kiewitz **DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** Moneeb Levy **VICE PRESIDENT:** Shamila Sulayman

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Francois Bonthuys, Siyabonga Hani, Achmat Jacobs, Andre Kermis, Riaaz Khan, Ruben Machelm, Bulelani Mlakalaka, Anton Schelhase

GM: Danny Jones

Tel: +27 21 659-4500 | Fax: +27 21659 4501 | www.wprugby.com

Newlands Stadium, 11 Boundary Road Newlands 7700

Warmest Congratulations!

It is with immense pride and deep respect that I extend my warmest congratulations to the University of the Western Cape Rugby Club as you celebrate your 65th anniversary.

Founded during one of the most difficult chapters in our country's history, the club was born in an era when opportunities for participation and recognition in sport were unjustly restricted. Yet, against the odds, the players, coaches, and supporters of UWC Rugby refused to be defined by limitation. Instead, they carved out a space for excellence, resilience, and unity, qualities that have remained the hallmark of this proud club.

Over six and a half decades, UWC Rugby has grown into more than just a sporting team. It has become a community, a platform for developing talent, and a symbol of how sport can challenge barriers and inspire transformation. Generations of student-athletes have worn the blue and gold with distinction, carrying forward the values of determination, camaraderie, and pride in representing both the university and the broader community.

As we celebrate 65 years of excellence, resilience, and transformation, we honour the pioneers who laid the foundation under difficult circumstances, and we acknowledge the many alumni and current players who continue to raise the standard of UWC Rugby. From humble beginnings, the UWC Rugby Club has grown into a

formidable force, not only in sport but in shaping character, leadership, and community. This is not just a celebration of the past, but also a commitment to the future, ensuring that the next 65 years will be marked by even greater achievement, inclusivity, and impact.

We celebrate former and current provincial and Springbok players and officials who proudly hail from UWC, symbols of what is possible when opportunity meets preparation. Their achievements inspire generations of student-athletes and staff to dream bigger and push further.

To every coach, player, administrator, and supporter who has contributed to this legacy: thank you. Your passion and perseverance have built more than a rugby club: You've built a movement.

As we look ahead, may UWC Rugby continue to be a beacon of transformation, excellence, and pride. May the next chapter be even more powerful than the last. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Robert Balfour, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Development and Support, Prof Matete Madiba, and the entire UWC Sport Administration team.

Happy 65th Anniversary, UWC Rugby. From roots to records—and beyond.

Elmien Cloete
Director of Sport
University of the Western Cape

Message of support — UWC RFC

'n Hartlike welkom aan een en almal van ons alumni.

UWK RVK sien daarna uit om ons oudspelers terug te verwelkom op UWK se hoofkampus, 'n kampus wat 'n ongelooflike metamorfose ondergaan het die afgelope 65 jaar. Ons sien daarna uit om julle die nuwe en ou bekende op die kampus te wys. Asook om julle in te lig oor al die opwindende inisiatiewe waarmee ons tans besig is by die rugbyklub. Ons hoop van harte dat julle die tydjie by ons gaan geniet.

As we welcome several generations of UWC RFC Alumni, we hope this event will provide an ideal opportunity for everyone to rekindle old friendships and start new ones. UWC RFC has a rich history of producing numerous provincial and national players, coaches, support staff and administrators. However, for me the most enduring aspect of UWC RFC is the everlasting bonds created on and off the playing field, creating a rich and diverse tapestry of friendships that binds us together as a community. Let us use this 65-year reunion to forge new friend-ships and rekindle old ones.

Masibhiyozele abo bahamba phambi kwethu kwaye samkele entsha. Wamkelekile kwakhona amaqhawe e-UWC. Siyakubona, siyakubhiyozela.

Adv Nic Kock
Executive Director

Nic Kock (Chairman), Frederick Sefela (Secretary),
Falon Leigh Mars (Assistant Chairwoman),
Pulane Mokoena (Women Representative/Footprint Administrator), Vernon Treu.

Message from a lifelong supporter

Isaac Metembo

We are deeply grateful to Kapoeza John Walters and his team for launching this initiative, an opportunity not only to reflect on a proud rugby history, played by hard men over decades in front of thousands who admired their skill and God-given talent, but also to remember how Bush rugby prepared us all, players, administrators, and supporters, to make a difference in the communities we came from and in the paths we pursued.

Now, in the winter of our lives, many of us look back with pride. We never yielded to the lure of the immaculate green grass of Newlands or Ellis Park. Instead, we treasure the scars carried from the bone-hard turfs of Florida Park. With quiet tears we remember the giants of our era who are no longer with us, Godfrey "Doring" Thorne and his best friend Richard Kroutz, André Jantjies, Freddie Botha, and so many other brothers who have gone before.

To the current generation of Udubs players, women and men, we send our best wishes. You continue to make us proud. We watch your matches on television and cheer you on in the stadiums, whether in Port Elizabeth or elsewhere. You often face wealthier, larger universities, yet your courage reminds us that you know exactly whose shoulders you are standing on: the giants of UWC Rugby. Enjoy the Reunion.

Make new memories.

The UWC First XV, 1982. Back: Emlyn van Aswegen, Baker, Erlich van Aswegen, Wayne Marais, Hoogbaard, Mark Densten, Richard Kroutz, Johannes Weldskut. Middle: Jerome Gelderbloem, Donny, Cyril Wilson, Christie "Banda" Petersen, Fred Botha, Brian Prince, Gary Boshoff, Willem Bailey, Oerson Gorgonzola. Front: Hermanus Swartbooi, Julian Smith, Josias Bailey, Ronnie Korkee, Hennie Botha (chairman), Morgan Forbes, Harry Abrahams (coach), Roderick Lekas.

65 years of UWC rugby history

Truly a time to say: 'Remember, lest we forget'

John Walters

In an address to the SACOS-affiliated SARU General Council in November 1986, Prof. G. J. Gerwel, then the incoming rector of the University of the Western Cape, said: "[T]hat we play our sport the way we want to play it. We do it on our terms, we play it as an expression of ourselves . . . My idea with the University of the Western Cape . . . is to decolonise our education, make it a place . . . where we can be educated on our terms and for our ends. And I say in that respect SARU has been an example to me because they have shown me one can play rugby for our ends and on our terms."

I played for the UWC Rugby Club from 1976 until 1980. In the first two years, however, we played very little rugby, due mostly to the turbulence of the struggle against apartheid. Our 1976 tour to the Eastern Cape was memorable, but 1977 proved to be a difficult year. Our formidable coach, Mr. Harry Abrahams — "Mr. A" — parted ways with us, as did our inspirational leader, Julian Smith. Although Mr. Duminy stepped in as coach, our morale and will to play were low. Many senior players drifted away, and unsurprisingly, we lost almost every match. *Ons was in sak en as* — we were in sackcloth and ashes.

But 1978 brought renewal. We raised funds through cafeteria dances we called *scenes* and, for the first time in a decade, bought new jerseys. Gone were the "unlucky" yellow shirts and the light-blue, round-collared kit. We remain indebted to Mr. Gus Jacobs, who went out of his way

The UWC XV vs Fort Hare University, 1976. Back: John Walters (manager), Steven Lategan, Gerald Stoffberg, Fred Botha, Elroy Bosman, Hans Guibeb, Towie Swarts, Lawrence Radcliffe. Middle: Arthur Willemse, Henry Coleman, Desmond Grove, Kenny Stuurman. Front: Derek Slingers, Aluvi Daniels, Julian Smith (captain), October Muller.

The University of the Western Cape's rugby team at the 5th Intervarsity in Bophuthatswana, 1980.
Back: Agter: A. Booysen, A. Beukes. W. Zealand, N. Heideman, F. Raubenheimer, A. Jantjies, P. Jaftha, C. Ladouce, Gus Jacobs (manager-coach). Middle: R. Kroutz, R. Williams, V. Paramoer, C. Smith, S. Strauss, G. Thorne. Front: J. Bailey, J. Walters (captain), A. Cupido, J. Frantz, K. Kaboni.
Photo: Jack Lestrade.

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to provide equipment when we had virtually nothing. I still keep my jersey from that year with pride.

Early in 1978, Mr. A returned, and we began training at "Golgota." We welcomed back stalwarts like Hennie Botha, Gilbert Reid, Okkie Muller, and Chris Rose, while fresh energy arrived in players such as Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls, Des Grove, Clive Smith, Seth Strauss (both from Namibia), Godfrey "Doring" Thorne, Almore Cupido, Ronnie Mathys, Peter Radcliffe, Vincent Paramoer, and Richard Kroutz, among others.

I had the honour of captaining this formidable side, forged into a tight unit, *wat deur Mr. A tot in hegte eenheid gesnoer is*, according to Hannes Appel. My teammates nicknamed me "Kapoeza," a nod to my captaincy.

Our change in fortunes was soon visible on the field. A 1978 newspaper headline captured it perfectly: *UWK onstuitbaar* (UWC unstoppable). Beneath Jack Lestrade's photograph, the caption read: "The University of the Western Cape has once again proven unstoppable this season in the Tygerberg Union league. This spirited rugby side has its sights set on sweeping all the union's trophies, just as it did back in 1974. In the opening round, the team showed its strength by remaining unbeaten, while four of its players earned provincial call-ups this year."

When the final whistle blew on that rainy Saturday in September 1978, and we defeated the mighty Tigers of Peter Jooste and Julian Smith by 11–6. I was a proud captain. Fourteen other men had put their bodies on the line for a great victory, and great glory, for a great team. Hannes Appel summed it up well: "With their powerful, mobile forwards and speedy backline, John Walters's team in their dark

blue jerseys with egg-yellow collars steamrolled every opponent.

A crowd-pleaser was their pattern of ball-handling and a full eighty minutes of running rugby. This imaginative style of play makes the students a delight to watch."

That win was, I believe, a fitting 50th birthday gift for Mr. A. I also served as club chairperson in 1978. Our meetings were held after training in the newly built changing room. Funds were scarce, so we approached Pep Stores for support. They sent us a cheque for R25 (about R1,075 in today's money). In solidarity, the meeting unanimously decided to return it.

Three of us from that UWC side, Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls, and I, went on to play for the Tygerberg team that won the 1978 South African Cup. The following year, 1979, we could not sustain the same momentum and missed the league finals. It was disappointing, but the highlight was our trip to the University of Zululand for the Intervarsity Games.

By 1980, very little rugby was played at UWC. I say this without regret, and I fully associate myself with Greg Voigt's words in UWC Rugby Club 1965–1995: "This [i.e. the political situation] inevitably meant that UWC's sports programmes also had to be suspended.

Yet the sacrifice was small compared to the magnitude of the events that, a decade later, would lead to the unbanning of the ANC and PAC." For me, rugby at UWC was always more than a game. I played as an expression of myself, on my own terms, with a decolonised mind. In memory, I have built a monument to both the fallen and the living heroes — lest I forget.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let us remember: the UWC Rugby Club is not merely a historic monument. It is a living institution. Its true measure of success lies in its endurance: the same club thrives today, 65 years on.

Happy 65th Anniversary, UWC Rugby Club.

The beginning, 1961. Prof. D. L. Stopforth of the Department English with members of the first UWC Rugby team, the "Black Jerseys". Among the players are Kobus Erasmus, Julian Sonn, Zenophon Pitt, Spanner Stuurman, Fred van Niekerk (in front, catching the ball), "Yster" Esterhuizen, Leon Carlse and Willy Newman.

Bearing witness to our moment

Eddie Geduld

The Palestinian writer Refaat R. Alareer reminds us: "To write is to tell stories, to bear witness to your moment . . . We live for a reason: to tell the stories of loss, of survival, and of hope." This is an apt reminder on the 65th anniversary of the UWC Rugby Club, six-and-a-half decades of tackles and tries, when teammates became life-long friends. Today we celebrate that legacy while forging new memories.

The history of student politics and rugby at the University College of the Western Cape (UCWC, later UWC) cannot be separated from the oppressive milieu of apartheid. Life for the disenfranchised student community in the 1960s was difficult, and rugby at UWC must be understood against the backdrop of discriminatory legislation and social constraints.

Founded in 1960, the University of the Western Cape Rugby Football Club (UWCRFC) fielded both a first and second team affiliated to the Parow Union. The players were coached by Dr. D.L. Stopforth, with Cecil Smith serving as chairman and Neville Krynauw as the first secretary. That inaugural side was captained by Cyprian Martin, an eighthman, alongside players such as G. Esterhuizen, K. Erasmus, "Spanner" Stuurman, F. van Niekerk, W. Newman, Z. Pitt, C. Paulse, D. Adonis, B. Lategan, L. Carelse, J. Blaauw, B. Saunders, J. Sonn, S. Nicholai, and I. Koopman. Charles Muller, a no-nonsense lock forward, motivator and later captain, would go on to lead both the UWC First XV and the Federation team.

In 1964, a new cohort of players strengthened the club: E. Wakefield (captain), Billy Morkel, Abe Fortuin (scrumhalf), Len Consul (centre), Keith Lentoor (flyhalf), Eddie Geduld (wing), and forwards such as H. Herman, David Isaacs, Elky McLaren, "Soapie" Williams,

The UWC First XV, 1966. Back: Jonny Dennis, Patrick Mettler, Dawie Isaacs, Leslie Lombard, Yoa Abrahams, Melvin van Rooyen, Wilmot Phillips. Middle: Latief Abdullatief, Roland Bastian, Neil Jacobs, Herby Schultz. Front: Eddie Geduld, Jacques Cornelissen, Abe Fortuin, Ben Simons.

The UWC First XV against Hewat Teachers' College, 1967. Back: S. Hermanus, C. Johnson, C. Isaacs, D. Isaacs, J. Cyster, F. Bruinders, B. Simons. Middle: E. Geduld, D. Schreuder (manager), R. Bastian (captain), A. Fortuin (vice-captain), P.A.L. van Niekerk (coach), F. Engelbrecht. Front: J. Erasmus, K. Welman, I Schroeder, L. Lottering.

John Messina, Theo Hess, Royce Hufkie, and Edmund Stone.

The club's survival was never guaranteed. Rugby at UWC was shaped by apartheid's restrictions, which forced affiliation with the Bellville Union, itself part of the racially segregated SA Rugby Football Federation (SARFF). Players faced not only institutional barriers but also the lack of basic amenities such as proper changing rooms, equipment, and seating. One vivid memory recalls Charles Muller's brown V8 Ford parked among Port Jackson trees, a makeshift changing room. Despite these hardships, UWC players grew resilient, hardened by competition against seasoned Bellville Union teams such as Athenians, Happy Hearts, Hands and Hearts, Lion Hearts, Klapmuts, Blue Star Ferns, Young Osbornadian Rovers, and Good Hopes.

In 1965, Rector Dr. J.G. Meiring inaugurated the new UWC rugby field. On that day, UWC lost 11–6 to the South African Cape Corps (SACC). Soon after, intercollege matches against Hewat Teacher Training College began, producing spirited contests: UWC won in 1965 (18–6) and 1967 (13–9), while Hewat triumphed in 1966 (6–3) and 1968 (11–6).

In 1966, under pressure, UWCRFC joined the Bellville and District Rugby Football Union, affiliated with SARFF. Athenians edged UWC 9–8 to claim the Bellville Knock-Out Trophy. That year's executive included W.C. Phillips (chairman), B.L. Simons (secretary), T.C. Hess (treasurer), and A. Engel (match secretary).

The 1967 intercollege match remains especially memorable. UWC's Lawrence "Loekie" Lottering scored a converted try after centre Ishmail

Schroeder sliced through Hewat's defence. Schroeder then intercepted a midfield pass to score another converted try, before winger Eddie Geduld added the final unconverted try. Hewat replied only with three penalties; the final score was 13–9.

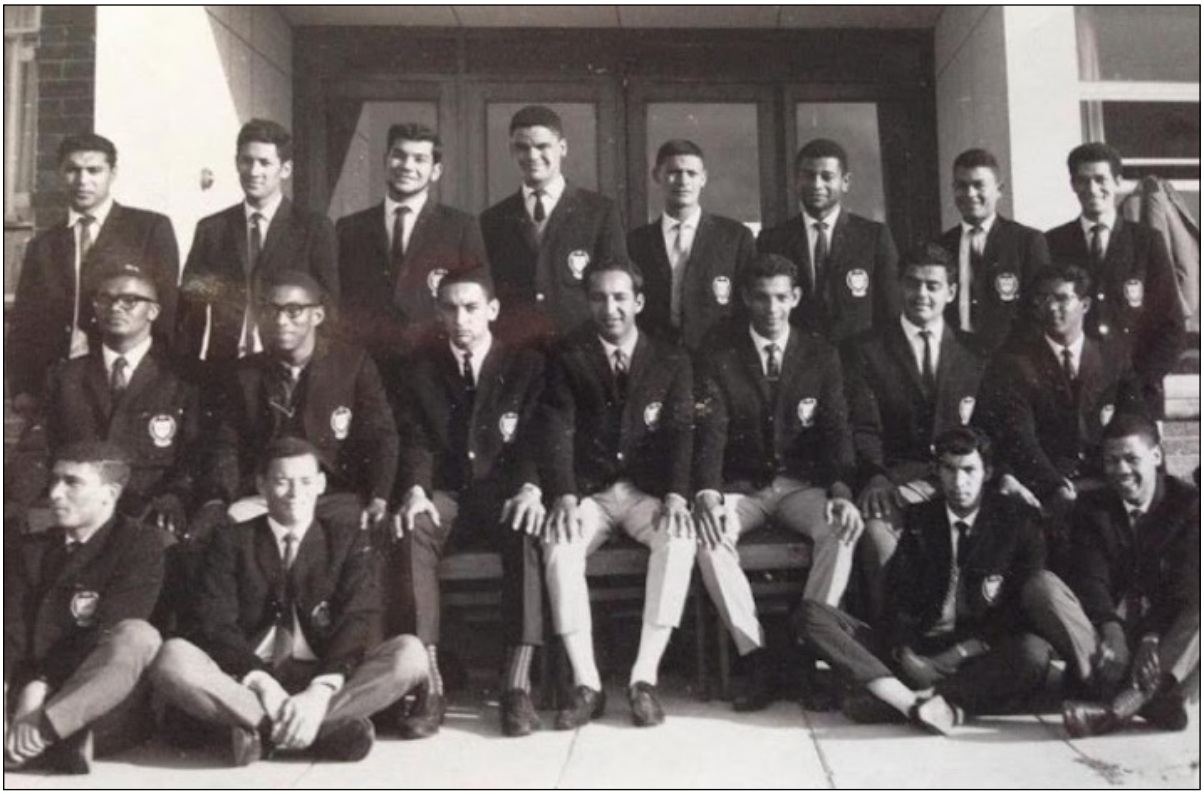
Later that season, UWC overturned a halftime deficit (0–9) against their "bogey" side, Good Hopes. Inspired by two monster drop goals from flyhalf Kosie Welman, and converted tries by Roland Bastian and Eddie Geduld, and a further penalty by Kosie, UWC stormed back to win 19–9. The 1967 UWCRFC executive comprised of A. Engel (chairman), R.E. Bastian (secretary), A.B. Fortuin (treasurer) and R.J.P. Hufkie (match secretary).

In 1968, coaching was strengthened by the arrival of Mr. Harry Abrahams, joining P.A.L. van Niekerk and D. Schreuder. That year, Patrick Mettler, Roland Bastian, and Kosie Welman represented the Bellville Board first team, while Jacques Cornelissen and Nicky Arendse earned second-team caps against Paarl Board.

In 1969, Good Hopes turned the tables with a 15–9 win. But Kosie Welman brought distinction to UWC when he was selected directly for the Federation side captained by Charles Muller. The Federation went on to beat the SA African Rugby Board (SAARB) 28–3 in Paarl.

The 1969 UWCRFC executive was represented by C.T. Johnson, (chairman), R.E. Bastian (secretary), C. Isaacs (treasurer) and K. Welman (match secretary), Y. Sirkhotter (additional member).

The 1960s left an enduring memory. At the club's 30th anniversary in



The UWC First XV in front of the only residence, 1968. Back: J. Charles, C. Isaacs, C. Johnson, P. Mettler, K. Welman, H. Sam, J. Adams, L. Lottering. Middle: J. Engelbrecht, B. Simons, E. Geduld, A, Engel (chairman), R. Bastian (captain), D. Isaacs, E. Verhoog. Front: D. Phillips, A. Isaacs, W. Ortell, S. Hermanus.

The UWC Third XV, 1968. Back: Jackie van der Heyde, Cedric Bosman, Aubrey Lategan, Archie Abrahams, Paxton Thuynsma, Matthew Erasmus, Vincent Bastiaan. Middle: Benno Langeveld, Franky Pedro, Sydney Bates, Stanley Dennis, Phillip Prinsloo. Front: Jan Persens, Neil Jacobs (captain), J. Geldenhuys, George Fredericks.

1995, Eddie Geduld recalled the "Sixties team" in their light blue jerseys defeating the "Seventies team" in yellow by 18–10, a fun if uneven contest. In 2019, at the Rugby Legend Gala Dinner, Sixties-era players presented Rector Prof. Tyrone Pretorius with a framed photo of the 1966 First XV.

What the early years instilled was more than rugby skill. Players learned to compete with vigour, but also to embody decorum, tolerance, and magnanimity, no matter the opposition. Their resilience shone through in adversity.

Looking back, Eddie Geduld fondly remembered inspirational figures like R. Bastian, the captain who led with distinction, and many others: K. Welman, Y. Abrahams, C. Muller, I. Schroeder, P. Mettler, D. Isaacs, A. Fortuin, C. Isaacs, F. Bruinders, B. Simons, F. Engelbrecht, K. Erasmus, L. Lottering, P. Gelderbloem, J. Dennis, L. Lombard, M. van Rooyen, L. Abdullatief, W. Phillips, N. Jacobs, H. Schultz, J. Cornelissen, J. Charles, C. Johnson, H. Sam, D. Adams, J. Engelbrecht, A. Engel, E. Verhoog, R. Hufkie, A. Isaacs, W. Ortell, S. Hermanus, J. Cyster, and D. Phillips.

There can be no doubt that we owe a great debt to those who laid the foundations, previously UCWC, then UWC during its formative years, and beyond. Through lean, demanding, and often traumatic times, they instilled in us a sense of belonging and identity that endures to this day. Lifelong friendships were forged, and our unyielding pursuit of non-racial rugby structures became part of a broader struggle for justice.

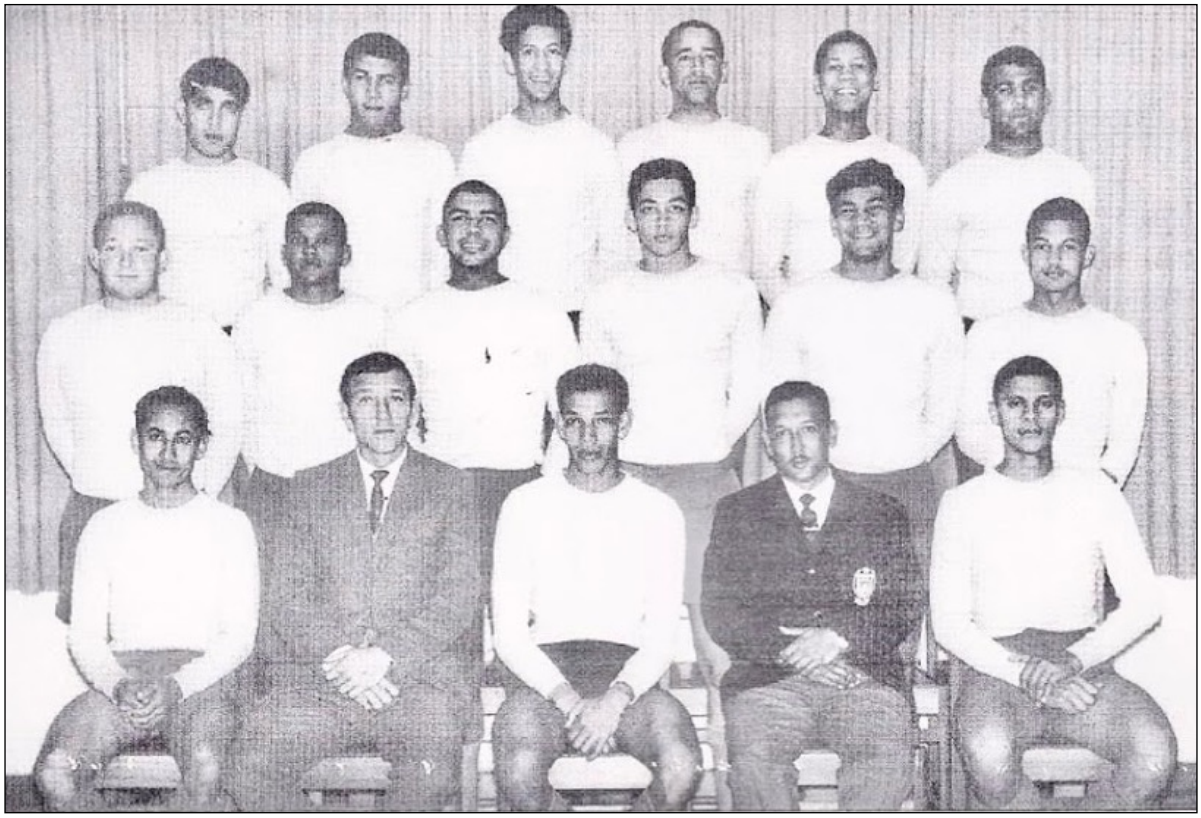
We are the generation that laid the cornerstone of the UWC Rugby Club. By any measure, what we achieved is monumental.

UCWC RFC's first seasons remembered

Greg Voigt

In 1959, the Extension of University Education Act was promulgated, providing for the establishment of separate 'universities' for different 'ethnic groups' in South Africa. The University College of the Western Cape (UCWC) came into being through this legislation. From the outset, the concept drew strong opposition, both at home and abroad. Domestically, organisations such as the Teachers' League of South Africa (TLSA) and other progressive groups voiced resistance, while internationally, the Oxford University Association and the International Committee on Science and Freedom in Britain made their objections known.

By November 1959, 13 members of the Council had been appointed, with Dr. J.G. Meiring named Rector-designate of what became derisively known as the Coloured Affairs Department's "kitchen college." The TLSA condemned those who accepted positions at UCWC and similar institutions. Tensions deepened when J.P. Duminy, Principal of UCT, declared at a graduation ceremony that "we never objected to the policy of separate institutions in principle," urging instead that "the bush colleges be made



The UWC First XV, 1969. Back: W. Rossouw, P. Gelderbloem, C.Isaacs, J. Sonn, S. Hermanus, J. Adams. Middle: P. van der Linde, J. Nortje, S. Bates, G. Voigt, C. Johnson, P. Prinsloo. Front: J. Cornelissen, P.A.L. van Niekerk (coach), R. Bastian (captain), Harry F. Abrahams (coach), K. Welman (vice-captain).

as good as they possibly can be" (*The Torch*, December 15, 1959).

UCWC had been academically active for barely a month when, in April 1960, a small group of students gathered in a makeshift lecture room to discuss the possibility of forming a rugby club. At the time, the campus occupied what is today the grounds of Good Hope Primary School, originally built for white children of nearby farming families. An adjacent open space served as a rugby field.

Students who enrolled during those early years often faced rejection from the surrounding Bellville South community. As Eugene Arendse recalled: "The club's first steps were far from welcoming. Local residents, together with progressive groups, staged placard demonstrations against what they saw as an apartheid institution. The students were certainly not received with open arms, and the rugby club's application to join the Bellville & Districts RFU was rejected. In the end, the UCWC Rugby Club found a home with the Parow & Districts RFU" (*Good Hope Gedenkboek*, 1973).

Prof. L. Stopforth served as the club's first coach, with Cecil Smith as its first chairperson and Neville Krynauw as secretary. G. Esterhuizen became the first captain of the 1st XV, while Julian Sonn captained the second team.

Government restrictions on student life soon became clear. Regulations published in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* on 19 February 1960 stipulated, among other things, that "students could not belong to any students' organisation" and that "no meetings of students were allowed at the college" (*The Torch,* 1960). The formation of the rugby club therefore represented not only a sporting milestone but also the first act of defiance on campus.

Cyprian Martin remembered the generosity of a wealthy All Blacks supporter who purchased and donated the club's first playing kit: black jerseys, shorts and socks. To express their gratitude, the students adopted the black blazer. Martin himself served as secretary in 1961 and captained the first team from the eighthman position that same year, alongside teammates Charles Muller and Peter Neethling.

Samuel Nicolaai proudly recalled being UCWC's first scrumhalf, partnered by flyhalf Ian Koopman. The team's first opponents included Excelsior, Bluebirds, Good Hopes, Evergreens, and Pepsi United. To fund transport to matches

The 1966 records kept by Brian Kannemeyer, of the Bellville & Districts Rugby Football Union, give these results for UCWC

First team, Special competition:
UCWC vs All Blacks 22–0;
UCWC vs Zandvlei 9–6;
UCWC vs Blue Stars Ferns 22–0;
UCWC vs Bellvinians 6–14.

Second team, Special competition:
UCWC vs All Blacks 5–0;
UCWC vs Bellvinians 23–3.

First team, League competition:
UCWC vs Y Osbornadian Rovers 22–19;
UCWC vs Happy Hearts 17–3.

in Parow, the students hosted "Platter Parties" in the DRC hall, while William Croy's GMC truck often provided transport. The speedy winger Leon Carelse soon earned the nickname "The Parow Express," and many believed he could have become UCWC's first player to receive national colours.

In 1962, UCWC moved to its present campus. For the next three years, rugby matches remained largely friendly encounters. William "Billy" Morkel recalled playing weekday games against local industries such as the Post Office and Nylon Spinners, as well as against Bridgetown Training College, as South Cape Teacher's College in Oudtshoorn was then known. With only one set of pale blue jerseys, first-team players often had to don soaking wet kit on rainy days. That season, Edgar Wakefield captained the side, and the club undertook its first now-legendary "G-Bay" tour to Mossel Bay.

In 1965, UCWC inaugurated its first on-campus rugby field with a match against the SACC. The opening ceremony was led by Dr. Meiring in the presence of Mr. H.J. Terblanche, who was coaching at the time. Terblanche, together with Polla Roux and others, later established Belsports, a shop where students could buy their rugby gear. An arrangement was made with UCWC's administration allowing purchases to be deducted directly from students' bursaries.

At the start of 1966, UCWC RFC affiliated with the Bellville & Districts RFU. On 9 September 1966, the *Cape Herald* announced, "Intervarsity won by Hewat." Eddie Geduld, who arrived in 1964, remembered the 1967 intercollege clash against Hewat Training College as an excellent contest, with rugby of the highest standard thrilling the crowd at the UCWC grounds. Early in the game, Ishmael Schroeder broke from the halfway line and sent Lawrence "Loekie" Lottering sprinting through for a try, converted by flyhalf Kosie Welman. A penalty by Maurice Heemro brought the halftime score to 5–3. In the second half Schroeder intercepted on the UCWC twenty-two and raced 70 metres to score under the posts, again converted by Welman. Eddie added the final try, sealing UCWC's 13–9 victory.

Later that season UCWC toppled their "bogey team," Good Hopes, by 19–9. At halftime Good Hopes led 9–0, but the second half belonged to UCWC. Kosie Welman produced two massive drop goals from the halfway line, giving Varsity the momentum. He orchestrated the backline movements that allowed Roland Bastian and Eddie Geduld to score a try apiece, both converted, before adding a penalty himself to round off a famous comeback.

' A wealthy All Blacks supporter donated the club's first playing kit: black jerseys, shorts and socks. To express their gratitude, the students adopted the black blazer.'

Kosie was especially proud that seven first-year students were in that first team, among them Selwyn "Ska" Hermanus, a centre renowned for his bone-crunching tackles.

On 17 July 1968, the *Cape Argus* reported that Roland Bastian, Patrick Mettler, Henry Abrahams, and Kosie Welman had been selected to represent Bellville & Districts RFU against Paarl Board, while Jacques Cornelissen and Nicky Arendse were picked for the B team.

Selwyn still debates whether the successful 1969 side that also beat Hewat was superior to the celebrated 1967 team. He jokingly admits he hesitates to declare

The UWC Second XV, 1969. Back: W. Ortell, J. Engelbrecht, C. Isaacs, L. Lottering, M. Blaauw, E. Kimmie. Middle: D. Phillips, A. Kloppers, W. Johannes, S. Dennis, P. Thuynsma, A. Abrahams. Front: F. Ernstzen, P.A.L. van Niekerk (coach), A. Cornelissen (captain), H.F. Abrahams (coach), G. Jacobs (vice-captain).

the 1967 outfit the better one, fearing a playful uppercut from old teammates.

In that 1969 match, it was Roland Bastian who set the tone, famously breaking the ribs of Okkie Morkel, the SARU lock forward, inspiring his teammates to greater heights. When Chappa later outpaced Mathaler to score, the latter turned to Okkie and apologised: "I'm sorry, Mr. Okkie. I misjudged myself!"

That same year the club toured via Kimberley, the "Diamond City," to Johannesburg, the "City of Gold." Their hosts treated them to a cinema outing at The Majestic, where the silver screen lit up with the message: "Welcome to the students from the Belvue University."

At the Bosmont Hotel, during a disco evening, Chappa tipped the waiter with a flourish: "Keep the change!"—handing over a R20 note (the equivalent of over R2 000 today). At the time, a Carling Black Label cost just 35 cents. The next day, with wallets severely lightened, the players established the "Philip Prinsloo Fund." Luckily, the tour was drawing to its close. Rugby in Bellville South was nothing short of brutal.

One afternoon, during a clash against Good Hopes, UCWC's front row had absorbed enough punishment and walked off the field. The final score, in Good Hopes' favour, was little more than a reflection of how many UCWC players were left standing.

In a Silver Cup encounter, Good Hopes met Meltons. Their lock was known for one golden rule: you didn't touch his hooker or scrumhalf. That day, though, his hooker was roughed up, and the order went out:"Com' on, boys! Let's settle down to business!" What followed was a storm of return blows, most of them landing on the unfortunate front row and hooker. Within five minutes the poor hooker lay stretched out on the touchline, concussed, dazed, and shaken. Good Hopes may have won the match, but, as the *Good Hope Gedenkboek* of 1973 put it, "the fight was ours."

The pioneers remembered

Norman Cloete

It is inspiring to reflect on how a small group of determined students, at a newly established institution and under immense pressure, succeeded in founding a rugby club in 1960. Their passion for the game ignited a spirit that soon spread across the young university community, who rallied together to make rugby a reality. At the time, student meetings were banned by Government Gazette, and so the establishment of the Rugby Club became UWC's first act of defiance, viewed by many as an act of rebellion.

Beyond political constraints, the players also faced practical challenges: a lack of resources, limited facilities, and resistance from the local Bellville community, who opposed a rugby team linked to a university born of apartheid policy. Their application to join the Bellville & Districts RFU was rejected, forcing players to travel long distances simply to play the game they loved. Yet fortune smiled on them when an affluent businessman, a supporter of the All Blacks, sponsored the club's first set of jerseys. Thus was born the famous black jersey that became their early symbol of identity.

During the 1960s the club was fortunate to have dedicated coaches who went above and beyond for the players and worked tirelessly to ensure the club's growth and integrity. The first coach, Prof. L. Stopforth, laid a solid foundation in 1960. He was followed by P.A.L. van Niekerk, D. Schreuder, and H.J. Terblanche. In 1968 the formidable Harry Abrahams joined as coach, with a clear vision: to nurture players into greatness. He honed their skills while allowing them the freedom to play their natural, expressive game.

The impact of these coaches was lasting. They left an indelible mark on both the players and the club, shaping UCWC into a respected force on the rugby pitch. Their brand of imaginative and spirited rugby drew admiration from the wider rugby community and inspired the student body. The club was also well guided by committed leadership: chairmen such as Cecil Smith, W.C. Phillips, Arnold Engel, and Colin Johnson, together with their management teams, steered the ship with vision and persistence. Their dedication ensured that players enjoyed quality rugby experiences and ample opportunities to showcase their talent.

Despite the odds, UCWC RFC consistently produced players of remarkable calibre who excelled in local competitions and left their mark on the local rugby world. Among the standouts were Cyprian Martin, Charlie Muller, Kosie Welman, Patrick Mettler, Roland Bastian, Leon Carlse, Eddie Geduld, Loekie Lottering, Ishmael Schroeder, Jacques Cornelissen, Julian Sonn, and Gregory Voigt. Several went on to earn board, provincial, and national colours. Notably, Charlie Muller captained the South African Federation team, an outstanding achievement.

The contribution of these players extended far beyond their university years. Many became coaches, referees, and administrators in community clubs, while others shaped young players at school level. Their dedication to the game ensured that the values of rugby—discipline, teamwork, and resilience—were passed on to future generations.

In the words of Eddie Geduld and Greg Voigt: "We laid the cornerstone—monumental against the odds." Indeed, today's UWC Rugby Club stands on the shoulders of giants. The pioneers, pathfinders, and trailblazers of the early years built more than a team, they created a tradition. Their legacy is a thriving club, admired not only at UWC but also across the South African rugby community.

Rugby under the clouds of politics in the 70s

Phillip Jaftha, Isaac Metembo & Sylvan Blignaut

Rugby at UWC in the 1970s was never just a game. It unfolded under constant political scrutiny and tension. In the early years, debates raged about whether to align with the Federation, under Cuthbert Loriston, or with the South African Rugby Union (SARU), led by Dullah Abass and the largest affiliate of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS). That debate ended abruptly in 1973, after UWC students "walked-off" campus. From then on, SACOS became the umbrella body under which all UWC sport was played.

The political turbulence of 1976 and 1977 brought renewed threats of mass action. Following the student uprisings, sport at UWC ground to a halt —after the winter of 1976, hardly a game was played.

Hostel rugby: The heartbeat of UWC

Reflections from Norman "Nokka" Cloete, Alec Booysen, Les Louw, Isaac Metembo and Phillip Jaftha remind us that the hostels were the lifeblood of UWC rugby in the 1970s. Rugby was more than recreation, it was community, and a stage for raw talent. Around 80% of UWC's rugby players were hostelites. For some, rugby was an escape; for others, it was a celebration of natural ability. Those who could not play offered unflinching support, often claiming to be the best rugby experts. Together they created a brotherhood that has endured across decades.

The first notable inter-hostel match came in 1975. It was here that young John Walters, a first-year law student from South West Africa, first

The UWC First XV, 1974. Back: A. Willemse, F. Botha, E. May, A. Phillips, P. Barry, S. Lategan, B. Neethling. Middle: O. Miller, W. Mouton, A. Oliphant, L. Radcliffe, M. Williams, A. Daniels, W. Herman. Front: H. Botha, H. Abrahams (coach), J. Smith (captain), T. Titus (chairman), P. Gelderbloem, G. Voigt.

came to prominence. Spotted by senior player Mike Williams, Walters went on to captain UWC, earn iconic status as *Kapoeza*, and later represented his beloved Namibia.

By 1977, the opening of a third men's hostel introduced a new team, *Tokkelokke*, and gave rise to UWC's first official hostel league. Rugby became central to the newly established Hostel Sport and Cultural Week, which featured everything from klawerjas, dominoes, table tennis, tennis to cricket and even men's netball.

The week ended with a lively braai, disco, and prize-giving. For many, this festive environment gave them the courage to take the step up into UWC's first team, enriching the club with a constant flow of talent.

Memorable moments

The 1970s produced countless unforgettable memories. Players still recall the scars, both literal and figurative, earned on fields from Ravensmead to Kraaifontein, and the bus rides to face the prison wardens at Pollsmoor. These experiences still fuel stories, laughter, and WhatsApp banter today.

Matches against Tigers, one of UWC's fiercest rivals, on Florida Park in the heart of Ravensmead stand out. Led by the formidable Piet Jooste, Tigers targeted UWC's front row with ruthless intent. But men like Godfrey "Doring" Thorne refused to be cowed. In one famous encounter, Doring adjusted his stance in the scrum, moving his right leg backwards. Almost simultaneously, Piet broke free from the scrum and sped past their flyhalf. Doring then shouted a ringing expletive, and the rest of the match went off peacefully.

Ronnie Korkee recalls his own highlight: a last-minute 100m try, exchanging passes with Gilbert "Gil" Reid, sealing victory over Tigers. Ronnie, known as *Die Lem* (The Blade), embodied the uncompromising toughness of UWC rugby. Fearless in the tackle, ruthless with his elbow, his blade, and respected even by opponents, he became a legend.

The struggle and the spirit

Behind every triumph lay discipline and sacrifice. Desmond Grove recalls the fierce competition to make the team: practices on sand dunes, endless stair repeats at the open pavilion, and sessions that pushed players to the brink. Yet the rewards were worth it.

One golden thread that runs through all the narratives and memories of the players of the 70s is the immense respect they had for the administrators that often were fellow players, especially their legendary coach during this era, Mr. Harry "A" Abrahams.

The era also produced outstanding talents: Eddie May, Arthur Willemse, Alfie Daniels, Stephen Lategan, Julian Smith, Gilbert Reid, Okkie Muller, Bill Reid, L. "Proffie" Hanekom, Greg Voigt, Lawrence Radcliffe, Hennie and Fred Botha, Doring Thorne, Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls, John Walters, and Desmond Grove. Many went on to provincial or even SARU honours.

Julian Smith, later Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Stellenbosch University, Korkee remembers as "a Professor on the field," a master scrumhalf with vision and calm under pressure. Doring Thorne is recalled for his blistering pace, stretching strides that made him almost impossible to catch.

Players like Alec Booysen, Jack Kasper, André Jantjies, and Richard Kroutz earned respect for their courage, skill, and heart, whether or not they wore the first-team jersey.

The UWC Second XV, 1974. Back: Johan Smith, Moses Cupido, Ricky Williams, Garnett Godden. Middle: A. Cyster, P. Stuurman, D. Slingers, F. Hendricks, T. Abrahams, P. Loxton, A. Engelbrecht, W. Reid. Front: L. Hanekom, J. Bailey, T. Titus (chairman), M. Williams (captain), H.F. Abrahams (coach), W. Mouton, C. Sass, L. Dyers.

Black intervarsity: Beyond the field

Intervarsity tournaments were the crown jewel of "Bush College" sport. They were festive gatherings, filled with camaraderie and mischief, from long bus rides to Fort Hare to unforgettable visits to Zululand, where the claustrophobic facilities were an eye opener for many.

Anecdotes still abound, like the time Sonny Joe Samuels, a gifted cricketer and rugby player, was left behind in Port Elizabeth, forcing his father to chase down the team bus nearly 100 kilometres on the road to Grahamstown; or the occasion at Fort Hare when a concussed player shouted "my cup, my cup!" when he really meant *my kop, my kop* (my head, my head!). But intervarsities also became sites of political awakening.

The 1976 Intervarsity at UWC ignited heated political discussions that contributed to the uprising later that year. Sport and politics could not be separated.

Entering the eighties: Defiance and sacrifice

The new decade brought new struggles. The 1980 boycotts, seen by many as the beginning of apartheid's final unravelling, shook campuses nationwide. Heated debates erupted about whether playing sport at "Bush Colleges" and the Teachers' Colleges contradicted the SACOS credo: "No normal sport in an abnormal society."

The divisions ran deep, splitting comrades, families, and teams. Some players, including Doring Thorne, Richard "Ysterman" Kroutz, Kasper, Henry Henza Jacobs, and Vincent Paramoer left UWC to join the Bailey brothers at Bot River Rugby Club. Others, like Ronnie Korkee, Isaac Metembo, and fellow administrators, were detained, enduring long months in custody. Rugby at UWC was thus never just about tries or trophies. It was about resilience, brotherhood, and the courage to play—and sometimes to stop playing—under the weight of history.

Grit, determination and 'post mortems'

Desmond Grove

I arrived at UWC in 1976 and joined the rugby club as a complete novice. The club was open to everyone, from former students who had moved on to professional careers, young hostelites, and beginners like myself. To be part of this team was fiercely competitive. You had to show grit and determination at practices and prove yourself in the Saturday games.

Players of the calibre of Eddie May, Arthur Willemse, Alfie Daniels, Stephen Lategan, Julian Smith, Gilbert Reed, Okkie Muller, Bill Reed, L. "Proffie" Hanekom, Greg Voigt, Lawrence Radcliffe, Hennie Botha and his brother Fred, Towie Swarts, and Kenny Stuurman inspired me to succeed and to sharpen my rugby skills.

Alongside Mr. A, we had Mr Pretorius and Eugene Arends, with Toby Titus and Sass Bailey serving as selectors. They had a habit of announcing the team only late on Fridays, partly to keep players disciplined for Saturday's matches. I later realised this was a strategy: too many of the boys were tempted to break the rules on a Friday evening after a tough week of training, and this was the management's way of keeping them in line.

In 1976 I began at flyhalf, paired with Julian Smith at scrumhalf, a strategist of note, fiercely competitive, and a master of unpredictability. He kept us on our toes because none of us could ever fully anticipate his next move. He was brilliant at linking the forwards and the backline into a cohesive attacking force.

By 1977, more talented players emerged, among them Godfrey Thorne and Eric Sauls. When Ronnie Korkee joined the club, Mr. A had no option but to shift me to fullback. Around this time, other promising players also began making their mark: Alec Booysen, Kalvin Whittles, John Walters, Seth Strauss, Clive Smith, Henry Jacobs, Philip Jaftha, Les Louw, and Jan Frantz, to name just a few.

The year 1979 stands out as the highlight of my playing days. Under Mr. A's watchful guidance and John Walters' leadership, we humbled the Tigers on their own pitch, even with Julian Smith in their ranks. It was a resounding victory, one that Piet Jooste, I suspect, never forgot, since Tigers had long considered the Grand Challenge Trophy their permanent possession.

That same year we toured Grahamstown, and I remember it with great fondness. The quiet, sleepy town by day transformed after sunset. At the welcome function, the local beauties made more than a few heads turn, giving poor Mr. A endless headaches with the boys' antics. The Fort Hare University tour was equally memorable, though I ended the season on a bittersweet note, excluded from the intervarsity match against the University of Zululand due to Sass Bailey's uncompromising disciplinary code.

And then there were the famous "post-mortems" at Toby's house after Saturday matches. I must confess we looked forward to the debrief! The analysis itself lasted barely ten minutes; the rest of the evening belonged to Bacchus. Poor Audrey, Toby's wife, often had to compete with the revelry until the early hours.

At UWC rugby, I learnt to show guts and determination and to respect seniority. My thanks go to Toby, Sass, Gus Jacobs, and especially the players of the 70s and 80s. May the proud tradition of UWC Rugby continue to flourish.

Friendship, pride, and unforgettable joy

Jannie Frantz

From the dusty streets of Saron and its rock-hard rugby field to the lush green turf of the University of the Western Cape, it felt like a dream come true for us as first-year rugby players.

I still remember sitting in my room in Hostel II in 1976 when Small Red (Lawrence Radcliffe), John van Reenen, and others came to introduce themselves. I was especially surprised to see Lawrence. I knew him from the annual clashes between Saron Young Violets and Nababeep. Seeing a familiar face immediately made me feel at home.

Naturally, our conversation turned to rugby, and Lawrence and the others invited me to join the UWC Rugby Club. I only did so in 1977, though, choosing to play hostel rugby in 1976 first.

The rugby fraternity was, and remains, a home to me. The friendships I formed there are still among my closest. Hostel rugby itself was intense, especially when we faced established A-team players from the club.

I mostly played lock for the second team, occasionally getting the call-up to the A-team when injuries struck. My most memorable game was against the Tigers, lining up opposite Piet Jooste. That was a true highlight.

I was fortunate to pack down alongside outstanding lock partners: Anton Lategan, later Raymond van Diemel, Leon "Tenk" Liedeman, and Floris Meisenheimer.

Over the years, we built a formidable pack with Phillip Jaftha at hooker, "Dr Kiss Kiss" (Christopher Neels) at prop, André Jantjies at flank, and the towering John van Reenen at No. 8. In 1979, I had the privilege of captaining the B-team and was also selected for Intervarsity at the University of Zululand.

My love for rugby went back even earlier. At Bergrivier Secondary in Wellington, I witnessed the brilliance of Cassiem Jabaar playing scrumhalf for WP against Boland. He was electric, his breaks, kicks, and passes were better than anything we'd seen, far superior to the scrumhalves of the whites-only Boland and WP teams of the time.

At UWC, in 1976, I saw that same magic in Julian Smith. An extra-ordinary player, arguably the finest scrumhalf in South Africa then. Five metres from the try line, he was unstoppable, either scoring himself or setting up others. Watching him in UWC and Tygerberg Union colours was pure joy.

Of course, there were many other standouts. Among the forwards: Stephen Radcliffe, Hennie Botha, John Walters, and Lawrence Radcliffe. In the backline: Okkie Muller (whose line breaks almost guaranteed a try) Gilbert Reed, Freddie Raubenheimer, and Stephen Lategan.

Later, Ronnie Korkee and Eric Sauls rose to prominence, delivering exceptional rugby. They were the crème de la crème: resilient, unyielding, and inspiring. They looked out for one another, true guardians of the game. Week after week, Saturdays, sometimes even Wednesdays, we eagerly gathered to watch them perform.

It was a privilege to witness such talent; a pleasure to share the field and the camaraderie. We had a whale of a time. Rugby at UWC was more than sport, it was friendship, pride, and unforgettable joy.

The not-so-cool lad from 'Kalabaskraal'

Ronnie Korkee

Korkee 1976. Rugby practice: 100% attendance. I gave it my all. I was a seasoned provincial schools rugby player, athlete, ex-country runner, and karateka. But despite the blood, sweat and tears, my effort seemed to count for nothing. I couldn't even make the 3rd team bench.

So Eric Sauls and I decided to try our luck at Peninsula Technikon. In practice there, our energy and skill were immediately noticed, and in no time we were promoted straight into their First XV.

Derby Day: UWC vs Pen Tech. We had a monster of a team with the likes of Banda Pietersen, Nolan Grove and others. To borrow from Luther Vandross: "the impossible dream became possible". We beat the unbeatable foe. Overnight, we were celebrities. Suddenly, the not-so-cool lads from "Kalabaskraal" were inundated with attention from beautiful women. Sadly, it ended abruptly when Mr. A and Gus Jacobs put a stop to it. What a loss! Back we went to UWC RFC.

And then the fairy tale began. We won the Shepherd Cup, the League, represented Tygerberg RU, and I picked up a few personal honours along the way: Rotary Leadership in Sport, multiple Player of the Season awards, Sportsman of the Year, and I served on the club's executive. I captained the side and even helped coach the ladies' team.

One memory stands out above all: the day we beat Tigers with a last-minute, 100-metre try. Only Gilbert Reid and I touched the ball before crossing the line. What a day! "Beenkop" Korkee. I couldn't crack the SARU team while playing for Tygerberg, but Tygerberg Rugby Union itself was a powerhouse. I was part of two SA Cup-winning teams, playing in three different positions. Julian Smith was the maestro, always with time on the ball, a master all-round scrumhalf and a professor of the game. In 1984 I finally made the SARU team while playing for Uitenhage and District, and stayed in the setup until 1990.

UWC was the breeding ground of many national players, names well known to you. In 1995, I played trials for the SA Legends team at Newlands and represented them until 2003. We travelled the world to tournaments in Bermuda, Argentina, Japan, and America. After that, I decided I had done enough and poured my energy into community rugby. If I may blow my own whistle, I was no slouch as a coach either. I coached provincial Academy sides, Craven Week, SA Schools, and SA Amateur teams. Sas Bailey, Herman Masimla, Hilton Adonis, and Mervyn Greene: thank you for the opportunities, even if I sometimes felt I had earned them more than they were given. Gary, thank you for the article that fondly called me a "Black Legend."

To all my teammates at Udubs, I salute you, especially Norman Booysen. He knows why.

Ronnie Korkee and Eric Sauls.

Crushing tackles

Freddie Raubenheimer & Bernard Lysander Sheldon

Listen, let me tell you something! I used to play wing. But when we faced Tigers, Gilbert Reed and Corrie Muller asked me to shift to inside centre for fifteen minutes, just to soften up Byl and Danny Cassey. And did we ever do it!

Now, Danny was my SWD schools teammate back in 1972 at the interprovincial tournament in Kimberley, so he knew I could crash tackle. Whenever I charged at him, he would immediately pass the ball to Byl! So we timed it right, this time the ball went to Byl, and I smashed into his ribcage the moment he touched it. I drove him to the ground, and just as we landed, Corrie and Gilbert piled on top, drilling him even deeper into the turf.

When Byl got up, snot was running down his nose. Gilbert simply said: "Okay Roebie, you can go back to wing now!"

Another time, as I was jogging back to fetch the ball behind the try line, Byl dived at me headfirst, smashing straight into my face. I staggered half-conscious along the sideline for the next fifteen minutes. From that moment, I zeroed in on him every chance I got, and floored him!

'I smashed into his ribcage the moment he touched it. I drove him to the ground, and just as we landed, Corrie and Gilbert piled on top, drilling him even deeper into the turf.' – Freddie Raubenheimer

In the first league game of 1977 on the UWC field, Julian Smith's first match for Tigers, I also nailed him, ball and all. With Byl, you always had to be careful. He was the "Undertaker."

Freddie Raubenheimer

We once played against a team from Bellville on their home ground. I had a "war cry" I'd let out whenever I broke through a gap or was on my way to the try line. That day, I was at outside centre next to Corrie Muller. As usual, I shouted my cry. The referee came straight to me and warned: "If you shout on the field again, I'll send you off!" I had no choice but to meekly obey.

'I shouted my cry. The referee came straight to me and warned: "If you shout on the field again, I'll send you off!" I had to meekly obey.' – Bernard Lysander Sheldon

In 1973, our second team went through the season unbeaten. My personal highlight was when we beat Hewat Teachers' College at Athlone Stadium. It had rained that evening, and the field was slippery. Hewat had two O'Ryan wings, both outstanding athletes.

At one point their backline got going, and our wing, Stephen Lategan, slipped. The O'Ryan wing was streaking for the try line. I charged in from behind, tackled him hard, and stopped a certain try. We won the match.

I was proud of that team. Many of my teammates were later promoted to the first team, which says a lot about their calibre.

I also had immense respect for our senior club mates. May UWC once again rise to be a rugby force to be reckoned with.

Bernard Lysander Sheldon

The heartbeat of UWC Rugby in the 70s

Norman Cloete

From its modest beginnings, UWC Rugby was shaped by hostel life. As early as 1972, a men's team drawn from the single hostel—one floor for women, two for men—played a match. The identity of their opponents has long faded into secrecy, but what remains clear is that, despite the limited pool of players, that side produced stalwarts who would go on to represent the UCWC Rugby Club with distinction.

By 1975, with two men's hostels established, the first inter-hostel match was staged. Hostel I, later known as *Lokasie*, dubbed themselves the Mean Machine. It was during this game that the extraordinary talent of first-year John Walters was first noticed. Mike Williams, one of the club's senior members, encouraged the young South West African to join the UWC Rugby Club. The rest, as they say, is history.

Not many hostelites joined the rugby club immediately. It was an open club, with many alumni and senior students, the legendary *ou ape*, still playing. Young hostelites often doubted their own ability to match such experience, even though talent abounded. By 1976, campus turbulence disrupted rugby altogether. No hostel rugby was played, and only a little social rugby survived, most notably through the B.Sc. students, who took on the "Klawerjas" team from their Cafeteria Headquarters and other ad hoc hostel sides. In hindsight, this initiative by the Science students became the catalyst for the more organised hostel rugby that followed.

The opening of a third men's hostel in 1977, with the addition of the *Tokkelokke* team from the Theology Hostel, allowed inter-hostel rugby to flourish more formally. Hostel life was colourful: monthly dinners at the Ladies' Hostel, Friday night cafeteria parties, table tennis competitions, and, of course, rugby. That year, the Hostel Committee under Gerald Stoffberg established a Sports

Hostel III XV, 1978. Back: G. Smith, I. Metembo, P. Weitz, P. Balie, Roderick Lekas, H. Theron, E. van Vuuren, F. Raubenheimer, P. Stalmeester. Middle: J. Frantz, J. Caroline, Clive Smith, Reggie Smith, I. Hartman. Front: A. Jantjes, H. Noemdoe, A. Van der Heyden, J. Smeda, V. Weitz.

Committee as a sub-committee, with rugby as one of its most important portfolios. Their efforts formalised UWC's first hostel league, producing many exciting matches. Once players realised the depth of their talent, they found the courage to step up and join the club. Hostel rugby thus became a rich, inexhaustible source of talent for UWC Rugby. In 1978, a representative Hostel XV played against Hewat Teachers' Training College, a highlight of the rugby calendar. Selection was an honour, recognising consistent performance in hostel rugby.

Hostel I XV, 1978. Back: W. Adams, A. Booysen, R. Campher, D. Grove, C. Arnolds, P. Jatha, M. Leonard. Middle: R. Matthys, Jeneker, C. James, H. Feris, J. Rooi. Front: P.J. Radcliffe, C. Wienand, C. Kivedo, V. Paramoer, K. Vraagom.

Some moments of the decade became folklore. On the old UWC field, Namibia (then South West Africa) played Eastern Province in a provincial match. EP scraped a win under highly suspicious circumstances. The Namibians weren't only looking for water to quench their thirst, they were making repeated detours to the pavilion for sips of of the old reliable, Oom Tas's sister, Virginia. Was this EP's brain trust at work? That same day, in a bizarre twist, a Datsun sedan performed a solo act under the southern goalposts, a Namibian trying to keep an EP attack from the try line! The car ended toppled on its side, wheels still spinning in the air!

For hostelites in the 1970s, rugby was more than sport, it was the main staple of social life. It united players and spectators alike. Even those who weren't adept on the field became passionate supporters and self-styled rugby connoisseurs. Nearly 80% of UWC's rugby players during this period came from the hostels. Rugby brought relaxation, camaraderie, and unity in a non-professional era, weaving itself into the fabric of campus life.

Many future stars, John Walters, Alec Booysen, André Jantjies, and others, only began to take rugby seriously after entering hostel life. The hostels weren't just close to the action; they were at the very heart of UWC Rugby. Match days created an electric atmosphere, and hostelites proudly identified with their own heroes. Seeing Des Grove, Seth Strauss, Godfrey Thorne, or the inimitable Kapoeza run out for Tygerberg in the SA Cup gave us goosebumps. We pay tribute to all who shaped hostel rugby in the seventies and, through it, the growth of UWC Rugby. Those were golden years, years that coloured our world with quality, pride, and unforgettable memories.

Rugby's risks and rewards

Brian Wilson

I remember vividly my arrival at the University of the Western Cape in February 1975, a 17-year-old stepping nervously into the world of academia, uncertain of what lay ahead. I was fortunate to be selected for residence in the hostel, where I met wonderful friends, many of whom remain true companions to this day. I was equally fortunate to share a room with an older hostelite and great *kammo*, Gerald Stoffberg, during my first two years.

Although tennis was my first sporting love, and with Abie Smith and others I soon founded the UWC Tennis Club in 1975, hostel life gradually pulled me into the rugby orbit. I represented UWC Tennis at several Intervarsities, later serving on the executive of the South African Black Intervarsities Council (SABIC). But it was in those first two hostel years that I encountered Norman "Nokka" Cloete, whose red blood cells surely flowed in the shape of rugby balls, along with John Walters (later "Kapoeza"), Kalvin Whittles, George "Jorra" Habelgaarn, Clive Smith, Lawrence "Klein Red" Radcliffe, Towie Swarts, Nic Metembo, and others who sparked the beginnings of hostel rugby. At that stage there were only two hostels, and this tight-knit band planted the seed.

When I became secretary of the Hostel Committee in 1977, with Gerald as chair-person, we worked with Nokka, Jorra, and UWC sports administrator Gus Jacobs to formalise hostel rugby. With Mr. Jacobs' support, i.e. providing jerseys and balls, the first hostel league kicked off among Hostels I, II, and III, soon joined by the Theology Hostel, the Tokkelokke. The spirit was electric. Hostel men backed their sides as if it were a national derby, stands packed with hostelites and day students alike.

Persuaded by Gerald and Nokka, I joined Hostel III, the *Mean Machine*. Hostel II was the *Black Bombers*; Hostel I, the oldest hostel, *Lokasie*. I worried about breaking bones again, past injuries at Esselen Park High had already left their mark, but the team spirit carried me.

'I can say with honesty and gratitude: I cherished every moment of hostel rugby and my years with UWC Rugby. It gave me friends, memories, and lessons that endure to this day.'

Against Hostel II, I often faced my friend from Worcester Desmond Grove and his partner-in-crime, Godfrey "Doring" Thorne, who came at me with ferocity. Thankfully, I had teammates like Clive Smith, one of the finest flankers I've known, who always had my back.

I played both flanker and scrumhalf, and in time earned selection for the representative Hostel Team against Hewat College. Some suggested I was chosen because of my friendship with selector Nokka, but he silenced the critics, insisting I'd been picked on merit. That match turned into history: expecting to face Hewat's hostel team, we found ourselves up against their First XV. Spirits soared nonetheless. Deep in their half, I broke through from a lineout and passed to André Jantjies, who scored in the corner.

Hostel III XV, 1977. Back: Lawrence Radcliffe, Jannie Frantz, George Habelgraan, Vincent Paramoer, Vernon Aplon, Aubrey Africa. Middle: Gerald Stoffberg, Trevor Puley, Patrick Aplon, Neville Cloete. Front: Norman Cloete, Kalvin Whittles, Edmund van Vuuren, Kidron Kaboni, Almore Cupido.

Des Grove converted, and our hostel side stunned Hewat's first team. The celebrations were unforgettable, and for me, a vindication.

From hostel rugby, the step into UWC Rugby was inevitable. With Nokka's encouragement, I joined the club, only to discover the full force of Mr. Harry Abrahams' sand-dune fitness regime. Many a session ended in exhausted players retching in the sand, but it built a team that could outlast anyone.

I mostly played second team, though a few times I was called up, like the day en route to Kraaifontein when captain Hennie Botha told me I was starting against Hands and Hearts, or the time our bus to Florida Park caught fire and Kapoeza kicked out the back window to save us all.

I also remember the lighter moments: my friend Granwell Smith, a die-hard supporter, would sprint onto the field after every UWC score, lie flat on his back on the halfway line, and kick his legs in the air. He even pulled this stunt at Florida Park, to the collective gasp of players and supporters alike. That took some balls!

But rugby's risks caught up with me. On a cold June Saturday in 1978 against Mamre, a collapsing scrum crushed my right knee. Kapoeza bundled me into his VW Beetle and rushed me to Tygerberg Hospital, where I learned my ligaments were torn and my peroneal nerve severed, leaving me with permanent drop foot. It was the end of my playing career. Afterward, I found it hard to watch UWC Rugby, I still longed to be on the field. Still, I can say with honesty and gratitude: I cherished every moment of hostel rugby and my years with UWC Rugby. They gave me friends, memories, and lessons that endure to this day.

Forging men into brotherhood

Arthur Willemse & Josie Ontong

Was joining the UWC Rugby Club an act of madness, or simply a way to escape the initiation gangs? During those first few months, the club's gruelling preseason programme made me wonder. Obstacle courses took us over the sand dunes to Unibell Station, leaping over stumps, poles, and oil drums, sessions that often ended in "vomiting competitions" beside the rugby field.

Then came the meticulously planned drills to "knit muscles up to the neck": endless stair runs in the open pavilion. More than once, I felt like throwing in the towel, until the rugby balls came out.

We spent long sessions crisscrossing the field, drilling skills and technique, punctuated by contact exercises and a shrill voice still echoing in my dreams: "Don't do stupid things!"

Looking back decades later, I'm convinced Mr. A did an excellent job. He succeeded in melting young men from diverse backgrounds, characters, and abilities in the proverbial crucible, forging them into a brotherhood.

I was truly privileged to share an exhilarating few years of my life with gifted players, a shrewd coach, and capable administrators. The milestones remain etched in memory:

- Tygerberg's League and Top 8 triumphs;
- The test-match atmosphere of the *juigkommandos* against Tigers and Hands and Hearts;
- A pack of forwards, *'n bulpak* that feared no intimidation;
- Gregory's "long arm of justice" ending Whitey's torment of the hooker;
- Backline comrades: Julian, Walter, myself, Okkie, Stephen, Eddie, and Dickie;
- A short tour to Namaqualand, capped by a *langarm* dance with Jimmy's Grand 6;
- The Eastern Cape tour where certain players' antics (whose names can finally be revealed!) nearly had us thrown out of the church hall by the priest after our match against Tom's team at Boet Erasmus in PE.

May UWC Rugby thrive for many years to come!

'I'm convinced Mr. A did an excellent job. He succeeded in melting young men from diverse backgrounds, characters, and abilities in the proverbial crucible.'
– Arthur Willemse

Arthur Willemse

From 1977 to 1979, I had the privilege of playing against UWC Rugby a few times for Pentech, in both student and league rugby. They were always formidable opponents, packed with renowned players: the Botha brothers, Sas Bailey, Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls, John Walters, to name just a few. Testing myself against them was always a challenge and a joy.

I also had the privilege of playing alongside UWC players in the Tygerberg provincial team, including Ronnie Korkee, Eric Sauls, and John Walters. Together, we won the SA Cup in 1978, Tygerberg's first-ever Cup victory. We weren't just teammates; we became more than rugby friends. In the SARU team, too, I was proud to line up with UWC stalwarts like Gary Boshoff, Gabriel Noble, and Godfrey Thorne.

Regrettably, I never played with or against Julian Smith. At the time, he had returned to his hometown of Robertson. But in 1977, I was fortunate that Julian helped prepare our Pentech team for Intercollege Week in Port Elizabeth.

Josie Ontong

The 1980s – the decade of change

Gary B.E. Boshoff

The 1980s marked a period of profound change, for South Africa and for the cohort of students who arrived at the University of the Western Cape between 1978 and 1983. Many of us, some as young as seventeen, stepped onto a volatile and highly politicised campus, unaware that we were about to live through one of the most impactful decades in the transformation of both UWC and our country.

Following the school boycotts of 1980, my matric year, we entered a campus that stood at the epicentre of political dissent. Protests, class boycotts, and running battles with security forces defined campus life. The tricameral elections of 1983 intensified the resistance, particularly with the so-called "Coloured Parliament" located right on our doorstep at the former Coloured Persons Representative Council headquarters on Modderdam Road.

One unforgettable moment was the symbolic burial of apartheid at the *Kleurlingraad*, complete with coffin, led by SRC leaders Calvyn "Cat" Smith and Lewellyn MacMaster, both UWC RFC members). Hundreds of students marched with the coffin along Modderdam Road, flanked by soldiers with R1 rifles and riot police wielding whips. We did not realise then that we were witnessing the beginning of apartheid's end. Later that year, the United Democratic Front (UDF) was launched in Mitchell's Plain, and UWC

The UWC XV, 1990. Back: A. Bester, R. Adams, G. Beukes, N. van Heerden, H. Cornelius, T. Jasper, S. Horne, A. Hess. Front: D. Snygans, E. Beukes, J. Booysen, P. Zana, C. Jafta, A. Stuurman, J. Arries.

UWC won the coveted Shepherd Cup for the first time in 30 years, 1981. Back: Gert Preto-rius, Henry Botha, Richard Kroutz, Oerson Gorgonzola, Vincent Paramoer, William Bailey, Edwin Bennet (coach). Back middle: Jacob Bailey, David Links, Josias Bailey, Ronnie Korkee, Godfrey Thorne (captain), Morgan Forbes, Wessel Japie, Fred Botha. Middle: Roderick Lekas, Gerome Gelderbloem, Darryl Botha, Ronnie Bantom, Ashley Searle, Henry Cunningham, Gerhard van Wyk, Allison Appel. Front: Jack Kasper, Henry Jacobs, Mark Denston, Hermanus Swanepoel, Leon Husselman. Photo: Jack Lestrade.

SHEPHERD-BEKER NA 30 JAAR IN KAAP

UWK wen met eerste poging

Deur Jack Lestrade

Die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland se rugbyspan het 'n opskudding veroorsaak deur vir die eerste keer in dertig jaar die gesogte Shepherd-wisseltrofee te wen deur Pirates van Port Elizabeth, in die eindstryd van die Shepherd-rugbytoernooi op Mosselbaai met 9—3 te verslaan.

Dit is die eerste keer sedert die ontstaan van die kompetisie dat 'n Kaapse span die beker uit die dorp geneem het. Hoewel baie ander Kaapse spanne al probeer het om die rugbyspanne van Mosselbaai onder die knie te kry, het hulle altyd die slegste daarvan afgekom.

UWK, wat twee jaar gelede ook die kampioenspan van die Tygerberg-unie was, het vir die eerste keer aan die jaarlikse rugbytoernooi deelgeneem.

Die twee bulspanne van Mosselbaai, Springroses en Mosselbaai, wat die afgelope dertig jaar die gesogte beker om die beurt verower het, het vroeër in die kompetisie kragte gemeet. In die jaarlikse derbywedstryd kon beide spanne geen punte aanteken nie, en sodoende is beide Springroses en Mosselbaai uitgeskakel uit die kompetisie volgens die reëls van die toernooi.

UWK, wat onoorwonne na die eindstryd deurgedring het, het die skare op hul voete gehad met sy puik spel.

Godfrey Thorne, kaptein van UWK, het gesê dat die spangees een van die redes vir die span se sukses is. „Dit sal moeilik wees om uitsonderings te maak want vir die eerste keer as kaptein van die span het ek self begin wonder vir hoe lank ek nog die leisels sal behou van die span na hul puik spel. Dit was 'n goeie manier om die seisoen af te skop aangesien ons na twee jaar weer in die Tygerberg-unie sal uitdraf. En ons wil vanjaar die bekers van die unie herower," het hy gesê.

Die spanne wat deelgeneem het aan die jaarlikse rugbytoernooi is: Pirates van Port Elizabeth, Goodhopes van Ceres, Gardens van Paarl, Tigers en UWK van Tygerberg-unie, Springroses, Young Blues en Mosselbaai.

Hennie Botha, wat in die ongewone posisie van heelagter gespeel het, het UWK se rekening in die sesde minuut geopen met 'n strafdoel van ongeveer 35 meter. Kort daarna het Pirates die telling gelyk gemaak toe George van Rensburg na 'n vryskop met 'n skepskop geslaag het.

In die lynstane het Louis Frank, slot van Pirates, vir UWK aanvanklik behoorlik ore aangesit met sy pragtige lynstaanwerk op nommer vyf. UWK het weer punte aangeteken toe sy haastige vleuel, Darryll Botha, in die linkerhoek vir 'n drie oorgeduik het. Hennie Botha se doelskop was in die kol om die rustydtelling 9 - 3 in die guns van UWK te maak.

students played a vital role in anti-election campaigns throughout the Western Cape.

Through this turmoil, rugby remained a constant. We fulfilled our fixtures at Tygerberg Rugby Union and ensured that the UWC Rugby Club upheld its reputation as a leading force in student sport.

1981–1984

Roderick Lekas, former UWC, Tygerberg, and Boland scrumhalf, recalls the stabilising influence of stalwarts like Tobie Titus, Sas Bailey, Hennie and Freddie Botha, Gert Pretorius, and Japie Bailey. In the wake of the 1980 unrest, they created a safe space for young players to grow.Under coach Edwin Bennet, a fitness fanatic and disciplinarian, the club rediscovered its competitive edge.

In 1981, UWC won the Shepherd Cup at the Easter Tournament in Mossel Bay for the first time in 30 years. A new generation of stars emerged: Roderick Lekas, William Bailey, Hermanus Swartbooi, Morgan Forbes, Mark Denston, Hensa "Superstar" Jacobs, Oerson Gorgonzola, and the lightning-quick Darryl Botha, mentored by seasoned leaders like Josias Bailey, Seth Strauss, and Ronnie Korkee.

In 1982, Harry Abrahams, Mr. A, took over as coach, with Julian Smith returning as player and assistant coach. Their partnership, two scrumhalves with relentless drive, transformed UWC's style of play.

That same year, Smith captained the SACOS-SARU XV at the SACOS Games, a fitting recognition of one of UWC's finest. UWC also won the Grand Challenge Trophy and narrowly missed out on the league title, edged by Peter Jooste's Tigers RFC in the final match.

Lekas, an understudy of the legend Ronnie Korkee, recalls: "While Mr. A was a strict coach and Doc Julian was always devising new moves, there was never a dull moment. I used every possible minute to learn from them.

The early 1980s were also defined by fierce rivalries, against Tigers RFC, Hands & Hearts RFC, Bellville South RFC, Prison Services RFC, and campus clashes with BOK (Bellville Teachers College) and Peninsula Technikon.

In the turbulent 1980s, the UWC Rugby Club was blessed with the guidance of Tobie Titus. Affectionately known as "Mr. T," he was more than a leader, he was a father figure whose wisdom and steadfastness lifted both the club and its players. His influence reached beyond

UWC's National and Provincial Players, Administrators, 1981-1985

Roderick Lekas (Tygerberg & Boland)
Gary Boshoff (Tygerberg, Boland & SARU)
Ronnie Korkee (Tygerberg, Uitenhage & Districts and SARU)
Godfrey Thorne (Tygerberg, EP and SARU)
Hennie Botha (Tygerberg)
Fred Botha (Tygerberg)
Hermanus Swartbooi (Tygerberg and Uitenhage & Districts)
Kalla Josephs (Tygerberg & Boland)
William Bailey (Tygerberg)
Julian Smith (Tygerberg & SARU, SA Rugby Ombudsman)
Deon Carelse (Tygerberg)
Sas Bailey (Tygerberg Executive, SARU General Secretary, SARFU Executive Member, IRB Development Manager: Africa)
Tobie Titus (Tygerberg President, SATISA President, SARU Executive, WP Rugby President, SA Rugby Executive)
Harry Abrahams (Tygerberg Coach, SARU Coach, WP Referees Chairman).

UWC to Tygerberg and SARU rugby, leaving behind a legacy of respect, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the game.

1985 – A year of trial

What was meant to be a year of personal growth turned into UWC RFC's greatest existential test. As postgraduate studies began for me, political upheaval at UWC intensified. Under leaders like Richard van der Ross, Jakes Gerwel, and Allan Boesak, the campus became a hub of resistance, with protests, boycotts, and even the abduction of student leaders Lewellyn MacMaster and Lesley Maasdorp.

UWC's National and Provincial Players, Administrators, 1986-1990

John Booysen (Tygerberg & SA Students)
Trevor Jasper (Tygerberg)
Anthony Appel (Tygerberg)
Alwyn Lippert (Tygerberg)
Bertram Vraagom (WP Country Districts)
Paul Treu (Tygerberg, SWD & Blitzboks)
Chris Jaftha (Tygerberg)
Amos Bester (Tygerberg)
Gabriel Noble (Tygerberg & SARU)
Irven October (Tygerberg & SARU)
Sammy Horne (Tygerberg)
Roger Adams (Tygerberg & SA Students Coach)
Donovan Schippers (Tygerberg, SA Students)
Chesny Prins (Tygerberg)
John Dempers (Tygerberg)
Paul Haricombe (SATISA)

Yet rugby carried on, protest in the mornings, training in the afternoons, Tygerberg practices at night. It was tough, exhilarating, frightening, and wild, but we persisted.

A defining moment came in May 1985 when the army stormed the residences. Twelve of us fled through lecture halls, over the Belhar railway line, and into the home of Sas Bailey, who gave us sanctuary despite riot police patrolling outside.

Soon after, the University Council closed the campus for the rest of the year. Many players lost residence, yet the rugby club still honoured its league fixtures, often with skeleton teams, sometimes with players doubling up on matches.

Despite defeats (including a 45–3 loss to Tigers), we finished the season. Though relegated, 1985 left lasting lessons which shaped me as a rugby player, a student, and a citizen of this country: leadership in adversity, the UWC ethos: *Never Quit*, the unbreakable strength of brotherhood.

1986–1990

Relegation to the Second Division of Tygerberg Rugby Union did not end the story. In 1986, the club regrouped under Mr. A and a new generation of leaders: Noel Petersen, Alton Harris, Bertram Vraagom, Chesney Prins, Niven Arendse, Denver Wagenaar, Nicky van Heerden, Gabriel Noble, and Francois Beukes.

Donovan Schippers describes the culture as: "A brotherhood forged in turmoil. It was never just about the wins, it was about brotherhood: the tackles that stung, the tries that lifted us, the laughter in the change room, and the unspoken understanding that, no matter what happened outside those white lines, we had each other's backs."

Both A and B teams won their Second Division leagues in 1986, earning promotion. Over the next three years, the club regained its momentum, with top-class players such as Alwyn Lippert, Deon Davids, Francois Beukes, Amos Bester, Donovan Schippers, Sammy Horne,

Trevor Jasper, Ashley Stuurman, and the ever-present Deon "Gawie" Carelse carried the club's resurgence. By the late 1980s, UWC RFC was once again a powerhouse, competing in premier Tygerberg and intervarsity competitions, earning invitations to the City & Suburban Top 8, and claiming the Tygerberg League title in 1989.

As Donovan Schippers summed it up: "Despite the political storm raging outside, 1986–1990 was another golden era of UWC Rugby."

Reflections

For those of us who lived the UWC experience of the 1980s, rugby, study, and struggle were inseparable. Together they shaped our intellect, character, resilience, and sense of belonging. Schippers puts it best: "Those years shaped us. They taught us resilience, unity, and the power of sport to transcend division. When we look back, we don't see just matches—we see a family forged in fire, a team that stood firm when the world outside was crumbling.

'The spirit of UWC Rugby lives on, not in trophies, but in the unbreakable bonds we formed when we needed to stand together."

The spirit of UWC Rugby (1981–1990) lives on, not in trophies or records, but in the unbreakable bonds we formed when we needed to stand together." And in the words of Nicky van Heerden: "As we reflect on this 65-year journey, may we celebrate not just the victories, but the spirit that has always defined this club.

Let us honour those who came before us, uplift those who carry the torch today, and continue to live out the legacy of UWC Rugby Club: *Never Quit*."

The UWC First XV, 1985-86. Back: Isaac Langeveldt, Cyril Wilson, Pancho, Nicky van Heer-den, Edward May, Harry Abrahams, Kevin Keeble, Gabriel Noble, Francois Beukes, Alton Harris, Japie, Noel Pietersen, Donnie. Middle: Niven Arendse, Clive Matthews, Winty, Denver Wagenaar, Babyface, Bertram Vraagom. Front: Gawie Carelse, Flap Fa, Chesney Prins, Izak Lyon, Cat Smith, —.

Rugby or geography?

Norman Booysen

I had the privilege of playing against the Tigers at UWC's home ground, around 1981 or 1982. I ran out at right wing that day, alongside Ronnie, Henza, Hermanus, Mark, Paramoer, and so many other legends. That day, my role became that of a specialist tackler. The Tigers' team included Pieter Jooste and his brother, literally a tall order!

Midway through the match, I launched into a fierce tackle on Pieter, driving him into touch. The impact rattled me as much as him, I saw nothing but stars and briefly lost consciousness. When I came to, my vision doubled: I saw two Pieters . . . The real one, though, was still flat on his back beyond the sideline, with first aid attending to him. Despite the double vision, I remember feeling strangely elated. Pieter recovered, and in those days we simply carried on, concussions or not.

After the match, the Tygerberg captain approached me and told me to report to practice at Florida Park. I was stunned but agreed. Back at the hostel, I had to ask Christo Banda to show me my room. I couldn't recall if we had already written Hein Willemse's Afrikaans literature exam. Christo assured me we hadn't, and, more importantly, that I *had* studied, though I had no recollection of it.

I did attend the Tygerberg practice the following week, but it ran very late. Unlike Gary Boshoff, I couldn't juggle rugby and my studies. Geography demanded my full attention, and I couldn't afford to fail, not with my parents relying on me, the eldest of ten children. Injury or academic failure was too great a risk. Not everyone was built as tough as Korkee! So my Tygerberg dream ended abruptly.

Yet, in playing against Pieter and alongside teammates like Ronnie, Doring, Henza, and Hermanus, I had my own Tygerberg and SARU highlights. For those moments, and for everything the game gave me, I remain eternally grateful to rugby.

The UWC Third XV, 1986. Back: Phillip October, Donovan Schippers, —, Desmond Lapperts, Bunny. Middle: Flyhalf, Angelo, Victor Istain, Kerwin Grove, Jeremy Klaasen, Ennis Delport. Front: Lloyd Cannon, Deon Keyster, Poggie, Adam Lot, Kevin Job.

The try that changed my life

Gawie Carelse

There are moments in sport—rare, unforgettable—that shape a life far beyond the field. For me, that moment came on a cold Wednesday night in 1984, under the lights of the UWC stadium. A night when the genius of Julian Smith, former SARU scrumhalf and captain, turned a single rugby try into a life lesson I carry to this day.

We were losing. The UWC First Team trailed 10–13 against BOK (Bellville Education College). Time was almost gone, and the unthinkable loomed: our first-ever loss to them. On a campus where rugby meant so much more than a game, that would have been humiliating.

'That night, I learned that true leadership rarely seeks the spotlight, and real success is always a shared victory.'

Then the coach acted. That evening, forced into the flyhalf role by injuries, Julian took command, not with panic, but with the calm certainty that defined him. He shouted for a forward to go down and feign injury, gathering the rest of us quickly. One last chance. One last plan.

And there, on our own 22, he sketched a movement that seemed impossible. Against the run of play, against all logic… but in his eyes burned absolute belief.

The ball wasn't even ours. BOK had the scrum feed. But Isak Lyon, our rock-solid hooker, struck against the head and won it back, just as Julian predicted. Tyrone Weitz, our scrumhalf, surprised everyone by passing left, straight to Julian. He broke the line. Julian had seen the field like a chess grandmaster, already plotting several moves ahead. Bursting past their defence, he offloaded to me at our 10-meter line.

Now it was on me. I tore down the touchline, flat out, the white chalk only a step away.

Julian's words rang in my ears: "Wait until you're ten metres out, then cut in. Their winger of fullback will try to push you into touch." I obeyed. At full tilt, I cut in, and just inside the field I dived over. Try. Victory. Final score: 14–13 to UWC. History made.

And then came the moment that changed me. As I stood in the in-goal area, celebrating, I thought I was the hero. But when I looked up, the team was sprinting—not toward me, but toward Julian and Isak, who were being hoisted onto shoulders. For a second I was bewildered. Hadn't I scored the try?

Then the truth struck me harder than any tackle ever could: rugby, like life, is not about who finishes the move. It's about vision, planning, trust, seeing the bigger picture. Julian knew the try was only the end result. What won the game was the plan, the execution, and the faith of every man on that field.

That night, I, Gawie Carelse, the one who crossed the line, learned that true leadership rarely seeks the spotlight, and real success is always a shared victory.

More than forty years later, I still hear Julian's voice: "Wait ten metres before you cut in." And in that memory lives the cold air, the tension, and the magic of a team that believed.

The try changed my philosophy of life. And it all began in the brilliant mind of Julian Smith.

The UWC Second XV, Tygerberg League Champions, 1986. Back: Noel Pietersen, Keevin Keeble, Royston, Llewellyn McMaster, Greg Naidoo, Gavin Constance, Archie Jansen, Donovan Schippers, Harry Abrahams. Middle: Lionel Henn, Lionel Lambert, Burton Noble, Trevor Jasper, Fergus Marupen, Jeff Grootboom. Front: Angelo Pietersen, Jonathan Arries, Donovan Fullard, D. Windvogel, Lloyd Canon, Solly Adams.

The UWC First XV, Top 8 Finalist, 1990. Back: D. Snygans, H. Cornelius, C. Jafta, R. Donn, N. Van Heerden, S. Horne, F. Van Wyngaardt, D. Schippers, L October, R. Adams. P. October. Middle: P. Haricombe, C. Prins, J. Booysen, A. Appel, T. Jasper, E. Van Heerden, J. Dempers. Front: C. Townsend, A. Stuurman, J. Arries, H. Jansen.

My life as a player and a coach

Deon Davids

My first steps were taken on the dusty streets of Victoria West, a rural Karoo town, before my family moved to Bredasdorp, where my love for sport began. With little infrastructure, we improvised, playing "dwerg tennis" with wooden bats in the school courtyard, cricket on a mat, and running past wheat fields and the graveyard to prepare for athletics.

My father introduced me to the greats of sport. We listened to early-morning boxing fights on the radio, clipped newspaper pictures for scrapbooks, and followed legends like Muhammad Ali and Björn Borg. Ali's athleticism and Borg's icy composure fascinated me. One Ali quote stuck with me: "It isn't the mountains ahead that wear you down, it's the pebble in your shoe." I only understood its truth years later, when life tested me.

As a boy, I watched my father play for Rangers and his best friend, Sulaiman Adams, play for Standards, from behind the wire fence of Park Street field. Years later, both their sons, myself and Nazeem Adams, would not only follow in their footsteps but also coach the Junior Springboks together at a World Cup in Italy.

'Our vision was simple: strive for excellence by doing ordinary things extraordinarily. We balanced rugby with the students' life and studies, built partnerships, and restructured coaching.'

At school, I played wing, then flank, before settling at scrumhalf under the guidance of Coenie Thomas, principal of Medland Primary and father of Boland legend Clive Thomas. That earned me a call-up to the Boland primary school trials, the closest I came to provincial colours as a schoolboy.

I matriculated as Head Boy of Albert Myburgh Senior Secondary in 1985. Those years were difficult. We played sport under SACOS, excluded from mainstream competitions, which caused tensions in school teams, since learners who played rugby for the Federation clubs, Standards and Progress in Elim, were excluded.

Political divisions grew sharper, shaping not just our sport but our outlook on life.

Though I loved table tennis and dreamt of playing tennis on Wimbledon one day, rugby, athletics, and community sport gave us purpose. Our school produced provincial and even national athletes, and rugby remained a source of pride despite restrictions.

UWC: A new chapter

I enrolled at UWC in 1986 to study Human Movement Studies, graduating in 1988 before completing my Higher Diploma in Education (1989) and, later, an Honours degree (1994).

Life at UWC began humbly, finding accommodation in Bellville South before securing a room in Cecil Esau Residence, the old Hostel I. Hostel life was formative. During the fiercely contested Hostel rugby week, I was roped in as a lock by *Groot Gees* Francois Beukes, one of the best No. 8s of our era. It was a nerve-wrecking, tough but amazing experience.

We went on to win the tournament, beating a strong Hostel III team

UWC First XV, 1989. Back: E. van Heerden, S. Horne, R. Adams (captain), A. Bester, D. Davids, S. Schippers, F. van Wyngaardt. Middle: D. Keyster, J. Arries, T. Jasper, L. Liesing, C. Jaftha. Front: C. Smith, A. Stuurman, P. Harricombe. A. Appel.

with Deon "Gawie" Carelse and Mervin "Babyface" Steenkamp, and an equally strong Tokkies team with Raymond Scholtz, nicknamed "Roadblock" and Denver Wagenaar. That week revived my rugby journey, forged lifelong friendships, and gave me a taste of the passion and pride that defined UWC rugby.

From there, I joined UWC Rugby Club, enduring the famously gruelling fitness sessions run by Mr. A. It took time to adapt, but I grew in strength and resilience.

Watching SARU greats like Spokie September, Nazeem Moerat, Gabriel Noble, and Joslyn Ontong at Florida Park was a revelation. Their brilliance fuelled my dream to understand the game more deeply, not just to play, but to coach.

The Human Movement Department shaped me profoundly. Lecturers such as Barry Andrews, Denver Hendricks, Libby Burrell, André Travill, Ingrid Muller, Keith Peters, Lloyd Leach, and Winston Kloppers gave me the tools to connect instinct with science, to understand the *why*, *how*, and *when* of coaching.

My classmates, Nicky van Heerden, Trevor Jasper, Kervin Grove, Sammy Horne, Rodger Adams and Graham Manchest and others, challenged and inspired me.

Playing in the Tygerberg League in 1988, the SATISU tournaments (in Port Elizabth in 1987, and at UWC in 1988), and the Top Eight in 1989 championship deepened my hunger. Rugby was no longer just recreation; it became a calling.

From player to coach

After UWC, I taught and played for Boland, and their club teams Hamiltons, Villagers, and Rangers, and Bredasdorp United in the SWD league.. But serious neck injuries twice halted my playing career, steering me toward coaching.

My first coaching steps were at Söhnge Teachers' College, where I lectured, and Worcester Villagers, before

a proud return to UWC as Head Coach in 2010, appointed by Ilhaam Groenewald, the Head of the Sport Department. Together with old teammates Donovan Schippers and Phillip October, I began rebuilding the club.

Our vision was simple: strive for excellence by doing ordinary things extraordinarily. We balanced rugby with the students' life and studies, built partnerships with SARU, invested in high performance sports science, and restructured coaching.

Alumni like Trevor Jasper, Kervin Grove, young coaches like Oliver Jansen, Jeffrey Stevens, Reginald Nutt and Bronson Weir joined the cause.

In my one season, we achieved milestones: beating Fort Hare, winning the WP League, reaching the Varsity Shield play-offs, producing Springbok women's players, and seeing talents like Uzair Cassiem and Anthony Volmink move on to professional careers.

The foundation laid at UWC shaped every phase of my journey—from provincial rugby to Super Rugby, and now with the Springboks. More than technical skills, it taught me resilience, vision, and the conviction that sport can serve communities.

As Stephen Covey wrote, the key is life-long learning. My path has been exactly that: from dusty fields in the Karoo to the world stage, an assistant coach to the Springboks, I have remained a student of the game, of life, and of people. I will always be grateful to UWC, for the classrooms, the hostel camaraderie, the rugby fields, and the brotherhood that continues to guide me.

Aluta continua.

Hek toe.

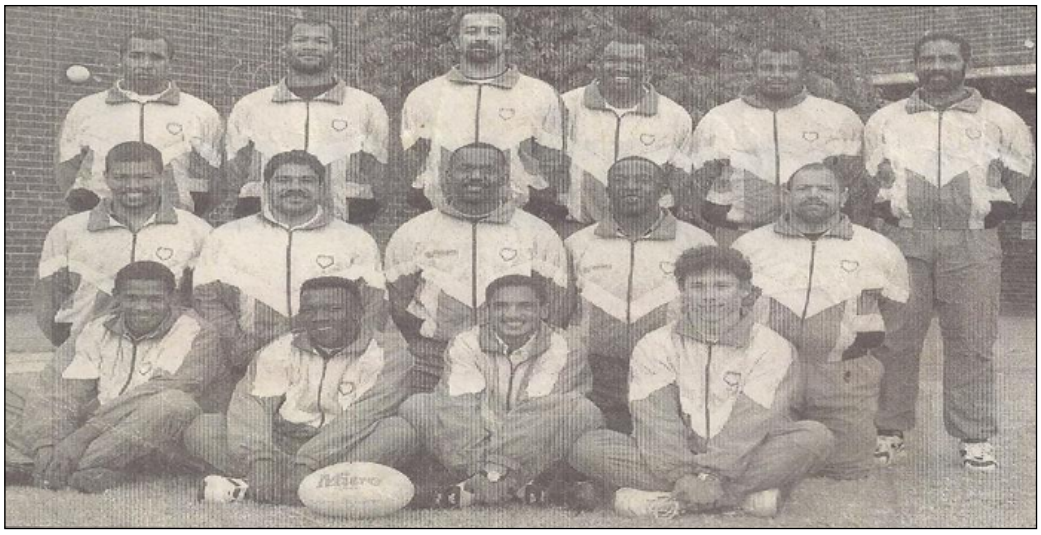
The 1989 UWC First XV in SARU's Top 8 competition won the Plate trophy in the City and Suburban tournament. Back: Irven October, Sammy Horne, Deon Davids, Francois Beukes, Eddy May, Roger Adams, Gerald Beukes, Edward van Heerden. Middle: Deon Carelse, Johan Jonas, Mervyn Steenkamp, Harry Abrahams (Manager-coach), Nicky van Heerden (captain), Gabriel Noble, Phillip October. Front: Jonathan Arries, Deon Keyster, Always Lippert, Trevor Jasper, Ashley Stuurman, Jacobus Zass, Donovan Fullard.

Cherished comradeship

Niven Arendse

I was privileged to have two stints at UWC Rugby (1984–1987 and 1990–1997), during which I served in different capacities: some years as First Team captain, some as chairman, and later as its coach.

Those years brought me into the company of immensely talented players, like Gabriel Noble, Irven October, Gary Boshoff, Norman Jordaan, Paul Treu, Sammy Horne, Francois Beukes, Nicky van Heerden, and many others, men who would become lifelong friends. Together, we navigated a transformative era for UWC Rugby. In the aftermath of rugby unity, through the journey from the Western Province 3B league to 1B, to securing our first corporate sponsorship.



Prestasi sponsorship for UWC, 1995. Back: Donovan Schippers, Rian Crous, Gary Boshoff (captain), Sammy Horne, Eddie May, Irven October (coach). Middle: Trevor Jasper, John Dempers, Mogamat Josephs, Dodo Tyalibongo, Niven Arendse. Front: Leonard October, Trevor Ciko, Anton Hartnick, Allan Hoffman.

It was also the dawn of student bursaries as incentives to attract promising players to UWC, the introduction of the Tri-Varsity (forerunner of today's Varsity Cup), and the stark reality that to compete at higher levels, we would need answers, if not alternatives, to the cheque-books of bigger clubs. These were initiatives that demanded the graft and dedication of many remarkable people, Tony Loubser, Donovan Schippers, Philip October, and countless others whose contributions built the foundation for what UWC Rugby would become.

In those early post-unification years, we quickly realised that the only way to defeat our more physically advantaged opponents was to unleash the finesse, skill, and speed of our explosive backline. But to do that, we first needed the ball, even just 30–40% of possession would be enough. That was easier said than done when facing packs heavier than our entire squad combined! As the old saying goes, "If the wind doesn't blow your way, adjust your sails." And so we did. We exploited every loophole the laws of the game allowed. On opposition put-ins, we would wheel the scrum so violently that chaos would reign and the ball became a 50/50 contest. At times, we even "engineered" unopposed scrums. All we needed was that 30–40% possession, and once our backline had the ball, the rest really was, as they say, *easy peasy.*

Looking back, what I cherish most is not the victories or the clever tactics, but the deep comradeship shared with remarkable people.

My years at UWC Rugby remain among the richest of my life.

A brotherhood forged in turmoil

Donovan Schippers

Arriving at the University of the Western Cape in 1986 felt like stepping into a storm. The country was ablaze. The State of Emergency had just been declared, and South Africa stood on a knife's edge. For many of us, it was a "deer in the headlights" moment.

Yet, in the midst of turmoil, we discovered refuge on the rugged fields of "Bush." There, rugby became more than a game. It was sanctuary, common language, and binding force, welding a disparate group of young men into an unbreakable *band of brothers.* We came from every corner of South Africa, each carrying different stories and struggles. But once on that field, we were one. Under the mentorship of formidable coaches like Mr. Harry Abrahams and Noel Pietersen, and inspired by leaders such as Gary Boshoff, Irven October, Nicky van Heerden, Gabriel Noble, and others, we shed the label of the k*oek en bier* side, a casual, social team that played for fun.

We became warriors. A Third Team that demanded respect.

One memory still burns bright: Coach Noel Pietersen standing firm against Mr. A, refusing to let his young First XV talents be pushed down to the seconds. "These boys belong here," he insisted. That defiance, that belief in us, changed everything. From that moment, we played not just for ourselves, but for each other, for the pride of UWC RFC.

Amid the political storm of the late 1980s, UWC rugby carved out a golden age. Between 1986 and 1990, we held our own in the fiercely competitive Tygerberg League, often against clubs with deeper pockets and longer histories. We even earned our place in the prestigious National Top 8 Tournament, a stage where UWC's talent could no longer be overlooked.

By 1989, several of our players were pulling on the Tygerberg Union jersey under the banner of the South African Rugby Union (SARU), a powerful statement that excellence from UWC could not be ignored.

But it was never just about the scoreboard. It was about brotherhood: the tackles that rattled our bones, the tries that lifted our spirits, the banter and laughter in the change room, and the silent promise that no matter what raged beyond those white lines, on that field we stood together.

Those years shaped us. They taught us resilience, unity, and the power of sport to rise above division. Looking back, we don't just remember matches, we remember a family forged in fire, a team that stood tall when the world outside was unravelling.

To the legends who led us, the brothers who fought beside us, and to the sacred patch of Bush that witnessed it all: thank you. The spirit of UWC RFC, 1985–1990, endures not in silverware or statistics, but in the unbreakable bonds we formed when standing together mattered most. *Once a Bushie, always a Bushie.*

The 1990s were a decade of profound transformation, not only for South Africa but for UWC RFC. As the country emerged from the shadows of apartheid into democracy, our club too stood at a crossroads. The giants who had carried us through the turbulent '80s, Mr. Harry Abrahams, Noel Pietersen, Gary Boshoff, Irven October, Nicky van

Heerden, Gabriel Noble, and others, began to pass the torch. Their departure marked the end of an era, but also the birth of a new generation, ready to carve its own legacy.

Those first years of the decade were bittersweet. The old guard, our mentors and warriors, slowly stepped away, leaving behind boots almost too big to fill. Yet their lessons endured: discipline, pride, and an unshakable love for the game.

Under new coaches and senior players shaped by their wisdom, UWC RFC continued to fight hard in the Tygerberg League and SARU tournaments. The club remained a beacon of hope for young players from townships and suburbs alike, a place where raw talent was honed, and brotherhood was sacred. Memories of muddy battles at Bush, last-minute tries, and the chants of *"U-W-C!"* carried the spirit of the '80s into a new decade, even as change stirred on the horizon.

By the mid-'90s, fresh names began to shine, Roger Adams, John Booysen, Sammy Horne, Felix van Wyngaardt, Paul Harricombe, and others. Young, hungry, and unburdened by the past, they were sons of the struggle playing in a new South Africa, yet carrying the same fire that had always defined UWC rugby.

As the game itself transformed after isolation, UWC RFC found its way into mainstream rugby structures. Players earned provincial trials; others stepped into roles as coaches, referees, and administrators. The legacy of UWC rugby was no longer confined to Bush, it spread across fields and provinces, taking root in every corner of the game. But the road ahead was not easy. Professionalism reshaped rugby worldwide, and club rugby was left battling for survival. UWC RFC, like many historically disadvantaged clubs, faced relentless struggles for resources, facilities, and recognition.

Yet, true to its spirit, the club endured. It refused to yield to circumstance. The '90s became a call to arms, a reminder that UWC RFC's place in South African rugby mattered, and that its fight was far from over.

UWC winners of the Top 8 against Cities. Back: Always Lippert, Johan Jonas, Deon Davids, Francois Beukes, Gary Boshoff, Irven October, Amos Bester, Gabriel Noble, Nicky van Heerden (captain), Cyril Wilson, Alton Harris (manager). Middle: Donovan Schippers, Donovan Fullard, Sammy Horne, Deon Keyster, Jonathan Arries, Dann Snygans, Mervin Steenkamp, Rodney Adams. Front: Ernest Delport, Trevor Jasper, Gerald Beukes, Ashley Stuurman, Edward van Heerden, Calvin Smith, Deon Carelse.
Photo: Sharief Jaffer.

You were never just a rugby player

Johann Mettler

My journey with UWC Rugby began in 1990, when I started attending games with Niven Arendse. Before long, I was on the practice field myself, a committed squad member. I was never a particularly gifted player, and so I plied my trade mostly in the third and second teams. What I lacked in playing ability, I found in passion for the administrative side of the game, serving as union representative, treasurer, and eventually chairman of the club.

Thanks to Koos Basson, then chairperson of WP Rugby, I was invited to serve on the Appeals Committee at provincial level. Those were the halcyon days of rugby unification, and UWC RFC made its presence felt at union level.

Figures like Gary Boshoff and Tony Loubser spoke out, often to the dismay of the rugby establishment, as we fought battles over access to student bursaries, an area where the status quo strongly favoured Maties and UCT. We also secured support from SARFU in the form of kit for our junior teams. It wasn't much, more the crumbs off the table than the main meal, but in those days beggars couldn't be choosers.

What will always remain closest to my heart is UWC Rugby's unwavering commitment to the full development of its players. At UWC, you were never just a rugby player. The club gave you a platform to excel in your strengths, to serve as a role model for younger players, and to shine as a beacon of hope in your community, a leader who could set the pace for others to follow. The greatest joy was witnessing our players rise to those heights, also in life itself. As the millennium turned, so too did the page for the club. The old guard had stepped away, and a new generation rose to carry the mantle. The club entered the 21st century with renewed ambition, blending the warrior spirit of the '80s with the energy and flair of a new era. Faces changed, seasons passed, yet the heart remained unshakable.

UWC into the late 1990s. Back: Eddie du Plessis, Paul; van Reenen, Tagmodien Muller, Reginald Nutt, Ashwin Roelse, Nigel Samuels, Gary Daniels, Donovan Schippers. Middle: Jonathan Dempers, Irven October, Gordon Prince, Felix van Wyngaardt, Attie, Sammy Horne. Front: Chris October, Mnet, Errol Cloete, Gemau Adams, Norman Jordaan.

The 1990s were not just a time of transition; they were a bridge between two worlds. The giants who built the club placed their trust in us to honour their sacrifice, and we did.

To those who played their last game in this decade: thank you. You were our heroes. To those who stepped up: we salute you. You carried the flame.

And to UWC RFC itself: the brotherhood lives on.

Once a Bushie, always a Bushie.

Into the new millennium

Donovan Schippers

When the clock turned on the year 2000, UWC RFC found itself at the threshold of a new chapter. The 1990s had been years of transition and survival, but the new millennium promised reinvention. What followed between 2000 and 2018 was nothing short of remarkable: a journey from a resilient community club into a talent factory that would eventually produce Springboks and Varsity Cup champions.

The early 2000s were defined by the steady hand of Nazeem Adams, who carried forward the fighting spirit of the old Bush coaches. Between 2000 and 2002, Adams instilled competitiveness and self-belief into his squad, carving UWC a place in Western Province rugby. Under his guidance, Donovan and Denver Schippers earned selection for the SA Students team in 2001, proof that UWC could nurture players who belonged on the national stage.

A year later, the club's triumph at the 2002 Kraaifontein Sevens Tournament confirmed that UWC talent was not confined to fifteen-man rugby, it could thrive in the fast, unforgiving rhythm of sevens as well.

In 2003, a familiar face returned to shape the next chapter. Herman Masimla, once a player under the legendary Mr. A (Harry Abrahams) stepped into the role of head coach alongside Irven October. Together, they took UWC RFC into a decade of transformation, building a pipeline of talent that stretched from Cape Town to the global stage.

Their players did not merely wear the UWC jersey, they wore the green and gold of the South African Sevens squad, the colours of Namibia at the Rugby World

UWC RFC winners of the 2002 Kraaifontein Sevens tournament. Pat McClaren, Donovan Schippers, Nazeem Adams, Donovan Layman, Edward Esterhuyzen, Francois Benjamin, Thembelani Ciko, Jerome Buys, Denver Schippers, M. Pepe, Jeffrey Stevens, Mandisi Tshonti, Tony Laubscher.

SA Students Rugby team, 2001. Back: D. Fourie, S. De Beer, C. Fourie, D. Nel, E. Venter, D. Theron, R. Van der Merwe, J. Coetzee, S. Schippers. Middle: D. Schippers, I. Diyela, C. van Tonder, S. Tyibilika, M. Laubscher, M. Mfene, G. Roux, H. Harding, E. Marx, N. Eyer, M. Baliso. Front: Dr. C Vonhagen, A. Botha (manager), B. Nontshingo (assistant coach), J. Booysen, K. Brandt (coach), F. Pringle (captain), G. Nel (chairperson), O. Mtati (assistant manager), W. Rudman (baggage manager).

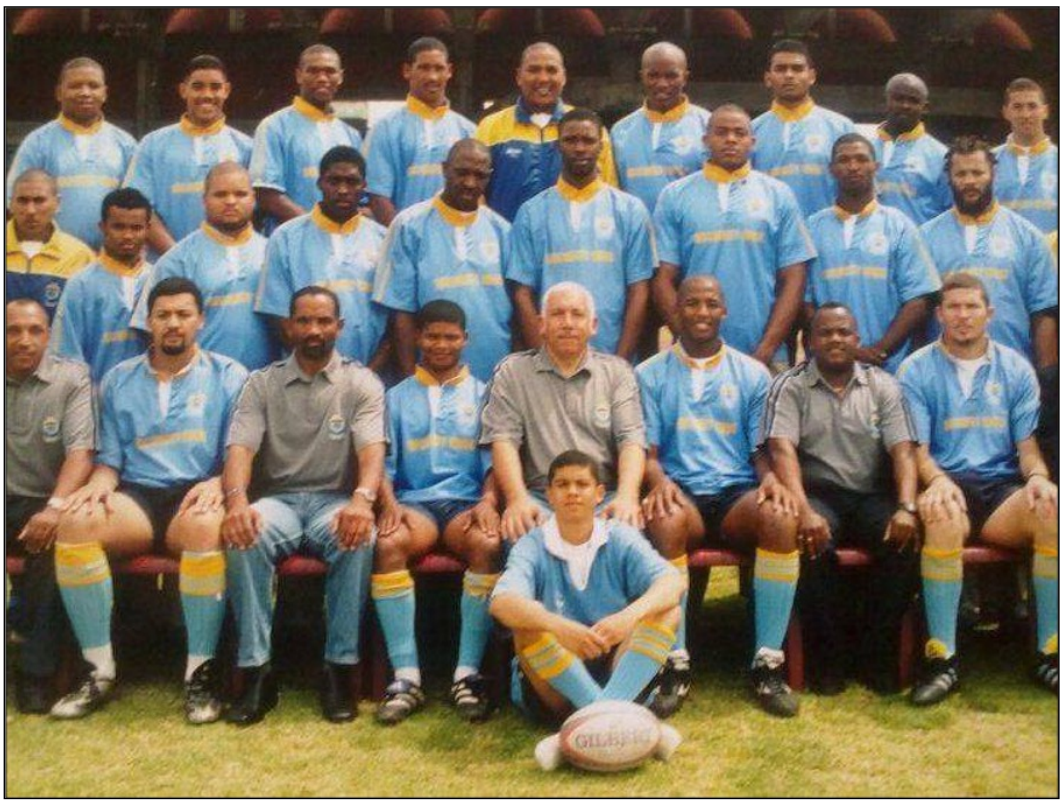
Cup, and even coaching jackets in New Zealand's professional leagues.

It was under Masimla and October that UWC produced names like Jonathan Mokuena and Lesley Jackson, both of whom went on to represent South Africa in Sevens rugby. From the same era came Uakazuvaka Kazombiaze, who donned Namibia's jersey at the Rugby World Cup, showing that UWC's influence reached far beyond South Africa's borders. And then there was Peter Hugo, a player who carried UWC's lessons across oceans, eventually becoming head coach in New Zealand's Farah Palmer Cup, proof that the club's impact could echo in unexpected places.

These achievements were not built overnight. They were the product of years of discipline, community, and sacrifice. The Bush fields, now renamed Udubs, remained the crucible where players learned resilience, where muddy knees and bruised shoulders forged something greater than victory, as always a brotherhood. The 2000s, though often challenged by the financial realities of semi-professional rugby, kept alive that same spirit. UWC became not only a place for rugby but a place for development, leadership, and opportunity.

As the decade drew to a close, the structures laid down by Adams, Masimla, and October began to bear fruit. By 2010, UWC was ready to step onto a bigger stage: the Varsity competitions, where university rugby was beginning to reshape the national landscape. Enter Deon Davids, whose professional touch guided UWC to the ranks of Western Province's Super League A and, more importantly, launched players into professional rugby. Under his tenure, Uzair Cassiem would rise to become a Springbok in 2017, while Anthony Volmink lit up the fields for the Lions and Griquas, and J.P. Kellerman joined the WP amateur squad.

The next decade unfolded like a crescendo. Under Oliver Jansen, UWC entered the Varsity Shield in 2013, a modest beginning, finishing fifth, that laid the foundation for something bigger. Players auch as Clement Trout (WP



The 2009 UWC First XV. Back: Jeffrey Stevens, Franklon October, David Johnson, Ozzie, Eddie du Plessis, Mandisi Tshonti, Ashley Felix, Shaun van Wyk, Tokkie. Middle: Physio, Melvin de Bruyn, Eckard Prinsloo, Speedy, Thando Mandla, Uakazuvaka Kazombiaze, Elroy Roberts, Eben Nieuwenhuys. Front: Vincent Baart, Ashwyn Sprague, Irven October (coach) , Peter Hugo, Patrick McClaren (manager), Francois Benjamin, Herman Masimla (head coach), Reginald Nutt. Sitting in front: Solly Adams.

amateur) and Carlo Jacobs (WP League) made their presence felt. Then came Peter de Villiers, the former Springbok coach, who took the club to Varsity Shield runners-up in 2015, earning promotion to the Varsity Cup. By the time Chester Williams arrived in 2015, the stage was set for greater heights. With Springbok Williams at the helm, UWC won the Varsity Cup in 2017 and 2018.

But perhaps more important than trophies were the players. From Williams' era came Herschel Jantjies, who burst onto the Springbok scene in 2019, and Kurt-Lee Arendse, capped in 2022 and destined to become one of South Africa's most exciting backs.

Alongside them stood Godlen Masimla, carrying both Sevens, Province and Stormers credentials, and Lyle Hendricks, who made his mark in the Currie Cup. The dream of the Udubs fields had become reality: UWC RFC was no longer just competing, it was producing some of the best players in the world.

Looking back, the period from 2000 to 2018 was not a single story but a tapestry. It was the story of coaches who instilled competitiveness, building pathways for players to thrive locally and internationally in a professional environment.

It was also the story of the players who carried the UWC name to o student fields, provincial stadiums, World Cup arenas, and even the Springbok change room. Through it all, one truth held steady: UWC RFC was never just about rugby. It was about community, resilience, and opportunity.

The first women's rugby match at UWC

Jannie Frantz, Aletta Braaff and Ronnie Korkee

The stands were electric the day UWC's women took the field against Bok (Bellville Training College) in 1978 for a rugby match none of us had ever imagined possible. The impossible became real: women playing rugby, for the first time in our memory. It was a moment of history unfolding before our eyes.

The press was there. Ian Landsberg reported for *The Hosteliet*, and photographers like Jeff Abrahams captured the action. When the call went out that a game against BOK might happen, UWC's netball players answered without hesitation. Under the guidance of coaches Ronnie Korkee and Eric Sauls, both stars of UWC and the Tygerberg Union, the women trained with intensity until their mentors were satisfied they could take on BOK. The question loomed large: who would earn bragging rights?

Both sides fielded strong packs of forwards and speedy backlines, and anticipation swelled as the players ran onto the field. The stands were packed, men and women cheering as the noise reached fever pitch. Among the spectators was Dr. Allan Boesak, our guest of honour, adding gravitas to an already extraordinary day.

UWC's team was led by Doné Jennefer Freeman at flank. The forwards boasted the formidable Aletta Braaff from Bonnievale at prop and Leonie Caroline from Bredasdorp at lock. In the backline, Bernie Esterhuizen took command at scrumhalf with Elma Sharon Nicolai from Groot Brak at flyhalf. Out wide, the lightning-fast Brenda Baatjes of Bredasdorp wore the wing jersey. Other

The pioneering UWC Women's XV, 1978. Back: Denise Rousseau, Bernie Esterhuizen (obscured), Carol Maart, Doné Freeman (obscured) Sharon Jefferies, Annetta Braaf, Alida Sauls, Cecilia Hartung, Antoinette Pietersen. Front: Sandra Carr, Milly Jooste, Kaylene Cloete, Estelle Tobias and Brenda Baatjes.

standouts included Carol Maart and Antoinette, both vital to the squad's balance. From the kickoff, any thoughts that this was mere "touch rugby" evaporated. Tackles were fierce, scrums solid, lineouts contested with determination, and mauls fought with grit. These women weren't playing at rugby. They were playing rugby.

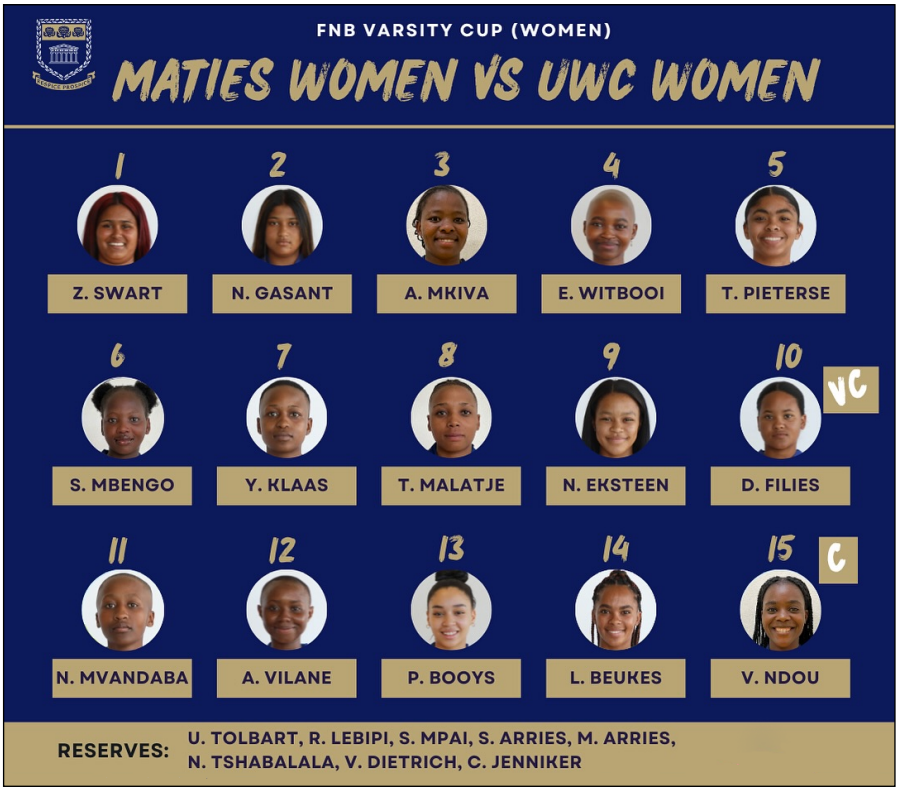
Among the forwards, Caroline, Freeman, and Braaff dominated with power and commitment. Out wide, Baatjes stole the show with blistering pace and dazzling footwork, stepping her marker and scoring a brilliant try that left the crowd roaring. Her opponent underestimated her at their peril.

It was a spirited, entertaining contest, proof that, had women's club rugby existed at the time, many of these players could have shone at the highest levels. On the day, UWC were unstoppable. They claimed victory, but more importantly, they wrote history. The crowd erupted at the final whistle, showering the players with hugs and kisses, celebrating not only a win but a breakthrough moment for women in the game.

Of course, no UWC occasion was complete without a party, and this one was unforgettable. Dr. Boesak joined in to congratulate the players, while coaches Korkee and Sauls beamed with pride, "on cloud nine" after witnessing their team's performance.

Today, UWC RFC boasts a competitive women's team in the Western Province league, producing players who have gone on to represent WP and even the Springboks. That dream, first glimpsed on a field in the late 1970s, lives on.

To the women who stepped onto the field that day: thank you. You proved that courage, talent, and passion know no boundaries. To today's players: keep pushing, keep believing, and make us proud. Remember, you'll never know if you have the makings of an excellent rugby player until you try.


FNB VARSITY CUP (WOMEN)
MATIES WOMEN VS UWC WOMEN
1 Z. SWART
2 N. GASANT
3 A. MKIVA
4 E. WITBOOI
5 T. PIETERSE
6 S. MBENGO
7 Y. KLAAS
8 T. MALATJE
9 N. EKSTEEN
10 D. FILIES VC
11 N. MVANDABA
12 A. VILANE
13 P. BOOYS
14 L. BEUKES
15 V. NDOU C
RESERVES: U. TOLBART, R. LEBIPI, S. MPAI, S. ARRIES, M. ARRIES, N. TSHABALALA, V. DIETRICH, C. JENNIKER

UWC Women XV, 2024.

UWC Men XV, 2024.

UWC Awards Evening, 2024. Back: Gary Bailey, Mervin, Jeffrey Stevens, Hailey Bailey, Sindiswa Matanda, Racqual Rossouw, Ester Meyer, Mthunzi Hewu, Laurian Johannes, Lubabalo, Ilhaam Groenewald. Front: Erwina Jordaan, --, Unathi Mabongo, Nosipho Poswa.

Positioned for growth and excellence

Clement Trout

I have served as Rugby Coordinator since 2020 and Head of 7s Rugby since 2016 at UWC Rugby Club. I assumed these responsibilities during one of the most challenging periods in the club's history, navigating the disruptions of COVID-19 and the tragic loss of head coach Chester Williams. Despite these setbacks, we managed to transform the club into a thriving, competitive program that consistently performs at the highest levels.

My goal from the outset was to focus on building strong systems and working closely with our coaching staff to establish a solid foundation for success. This strategy has paid off significantly. Over the years, the club has expanded its player base, fostered a culture of collaboration, and achieved remarkable results on the field.

The men's rugby programme has enjoyed notable success. After winning the Varsity Shield, the team earned promotion back into the prestigious Varsity Cup competition. We have maintained our A status at the USSA National Championships and currently compete in the Western Province Super League A division.

'The systems we have put in place are working and positioning UWC Rugby for continued growth and excellence.'

The women's rugby programme has been another outstanding success story. Each year, it continues to grow, with our investment in women's rugby producing excellent results. In 2024, the women's team was promoted to the WP Super League A Women's division and secured third place in the inaugural USSA Women's 15s. Several of our players have gone on to represent both province and country, reflecting the high standard of development within the program.

Our 7s rugby program has been particularly exceptional. The teams have won numerous titles in recent years, including the WP 7s Championship, Rockets Super 7s, Wesbank 7s, and USSA 7s. They have also represented the club in international competitions, with both the men's and women's squads proving to be highly competitive.

Perhaps most importantly, UWC Rugby has developed several world-class players who have reached the pinnacle of international rugby. Among them are Rugby World Cup winners Kurt-Lee Arendse and Herschel Jantjies, as well as Deon Davids, a proud product of UWC who became a World Cup-winning coach. On the women's side, the club produced Babalwa Latsha, the SA national captain and the first woman from the country to secure a professional international rugby contract.

These achievements confirm UWC Rugby Club's standing as a formidable force in South African rugby. We have established clear pathways for players to progress from university competition to the international stage, including the Rugby World Cup. The combination of sustained competitive success across all formats of the game and the production of international-calibre athletes demonstrates that the systems we have put in place are working and positioning UWC Rugby for continued growth and excellence.

Into the future

Nic Kock

The untimely passing of head coach Chester Williams on 6 September 2019, aged 49, marked a turning point in the history of UWC Rugby. In the wake of this loss, long-time club member Lionel Langenhoven stepped forward to steady the ship. As UWC's scrum coach for more than a decade, he brought both stability and continuity, laying the groundwork for what was to come.

In August 2020, UWC RFC welcomed home alumnus Paul Treu, renowned for his success with the Blitzbokke, as the new head coach. Under his leadership, the club expanded from a handful of men's 15s teams into a fully-fledged rugby program, fielding both men's and women's squads across 15s and 7s, competing in hostel leagues, regional tournaments, and national competitions.

Recognising the need for structure to match this growth, Coach Treu drew on his international experience to establish long-term development systems. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the men's side achieved its best-ever Varsity Cup finish (6th place), while the women's team qualified for the Varsity Cup for the first time in the club's history.

One of the most transformative initiatives of this era has been the academic support program. Designed to ensure that players excel both on the field and in the classroom, it has raised the number of male postgraduate rugby players from just one to thirteen in a few short years. The program has since been

UWC Women's XV, 2024. Back: Illona Philander (team manager), Nosipho Poswa (assistant coach), Shela Mpai, Alicia Mlindazwe, Anathi Mkiva, Tshegofatso Malatjie, Venisa Dietrich, Reshoketswe Lebipi, Yanga Klaas, Amber Beukes, Doney Filies, Courtney Jenniker, Pamela Booys, Nutalyah Gasant, Musfeeqa Arries, Aneesah Adams (head coach) Zoya Raubenheimer (physiotherapist). Front: Clement Trout, Voice Ndlou (captain) Kaylin Klerk, Nobuhle Shabalala, Abongwe Vilane, Nandile Mvandaba, Esethu Witbooi, Siddeeqa Arries, Taylon Pieterse, Nikicia Eksteen, Sesona Mbengo.

extended to the women's squad, already showing promising results. Beyond improving retention, it has opened new pathways for social mobility, ensuring rugby at UWC is a platform for lifelong success. Coach Treu has surrounded himself with an exceptional group of specialists: Lionel Langenhoven (scrum coach), Jamba Ulengo (backline coach, former Springbok wing), Reginald Nutt (lineout coach, UWC alumnus), Tiger Mangweni (defensive coach, former Stormers and Bulls player), Jesse Johnson (lineout coach, former Maties captain and WP lock), Mervano da Silva (women's head coach), Nosipho Poswa (women's assistant coach) and Clement Trout (men's 7s coach). This blend of alumni, professionals, and ex-internationals ensures UWC players learn from some of the very best.

UWC Players representing Boland Rugby. André Addie, Darian Hock, Tainer Andel Booysen and Liam Tattersal..

For many UWC athletes, coming from working-class communities, access to healthcare and proper nutrition has long been a challenge. Before 2020, players without medical aid often waited weeks or months for treatment. Today, UWC RFC has transformed this reality

UWC First XV, 2022. Back: Will Vraagom, Thandile Hoyi, Lubelo Scott, Mauritz Swart, Conwill Conradie, Tasriq Mynhardt, Peter Williams, Keanuh Michaels, Tiaan Henecke. Middle: Bradman Grove, Franco Ceaser, Asive, Godfrey Muzanarwo, Riaan van der Merwe, Jacques Mostert, Liam Tattersal, Aydon Topley, Huzain Banzi, Romuald Ntumba, Nicholas Chipanje, Andries Engelbrecht. Front: Juan-Paul Kellerman, Lionel Langenhoven, Jean-Louis de Lange (vice-captain), Paul Treu, Lyle Hendricks (captain), Ricky Petersen, Therlow Pietersen.

through: a volunteer network of medical professionals, including orthopaedic surgeons, optometrists, and dentists, who generously donate their expertise, and contracted service providers, such as sports physicians, physiotherapists, and biokineticists, who offer free treatment, ensuring quicker recovery and return to both sport and study.

UWC alumni, Springbok stars. Kurt-Lee Arendse and Babalwa Latsha.

Equally important is nutrition. Reflecting on my own student days, when lunch was often a shared loaf of bread, a bag of Mexican Chilli chips, and a peach Cabana, one realises how far we've come. Thanks to alumni like Claude Smith, our players are now welcomed after matches with pots of hot soup and fresh bread. The cricket clubhouse has been adapted to prepare nutritious meals during pre-season and Varsity Cup campaigns. Our long-term vision is to extend this support year-round.

The heartbeat of UWC RFC has always been its volunteers, ordinary people who give extraordinary amounts of time and care: Henry Adams (long-time coach of the 3rd team), Pulane Mokoena (loyal supporter across multiple roles for over a decade), Fred Sefela (gatekeeper and tuck shop manager at home games), Werner Spijkerman (optometrist), Drs. Luke Philander (dental practitioner, alumnus), Edwin Dillon (orthopedic surgeon), and Muhammad Hassan (orthopedic surgeon). To each of them, and many others, we owe an immense debt of gratitude.

'The heartbeat of UWC RFC has always been its volunteers, ordinary people who give extraordinary amounts of time and care. To each of them, and many others, we owe an immense debt of gratitude.'

A special mention goes to Sas Bailey, whose tireless work to reconnect alumni has been nothing short of inspirational. His vision is building a network that will sustain UWC RFC well into the future. We honour the past. We embrace the present. And we look to the future with pride.

Respice, Prospice.

Final whistle

Rugby continues to grow both nationally and internationally. This 65th UWC Rugby Football Club Brochure seeks to document and commemorate a vital and pioneering aspect of sport and student life at UWC.

Its stories and reflections form a golden thread, one that we trust will continue to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a rugby community and extend far beyond the field.

This Brochure is, in many ways, only the proverbial kick-off, certainly not the final whistle, in the celebration of UWC rugby.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to all who contributed to making this publication a reality. Through your efforts, both we and the wider public gain invaluable knowledge, understanding, and insight into UWC rugby and the institution it represents.

It is our sincere hope that this Brochure will inspire many more to build upon the foundations laid by the pioneers and generations of role-players who have shaped UWC rugby. May this proud tradition continue to grow into the future, ensuring that UWC RFC remains an admirable, formidable, and unifying force for decades to come.

'Its stories and reflections form a golden thread, one that we trust will continue to strengthen the bonds that unite us as a rugby community and extend far beyond the field.'

Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure so generously. We are filled with gratitude, and may the memories of rugby and friendship last a lifetime.

Roll of Honour

We honour you great warriors of the UWC/Bush/ Udubs jersey. We will remember you! Pictures keeps the memory going!
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oda21yDOcCzPBN8mBCzIXKsjJHjvvJHh/edit?usp=drivesdk&ouid=105150161968700088582&rtpof=true&sd=true

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The Anniversary Brochure is available on www.archive.org search for UWC Rugby.

Our Sponsors

Sport – a bridge towards building lasting friendships

In the buildup to the epic UWC Rugby Reunion Celebrations many stories were told of epic rugby battles. Many memories were shared of rugby legends that regaled us with their sporting prowess and indelibly engraved their names in our hearts and minds. Comrades in sport remembered bruising battles that instead of causing division cemented friendships. Truly, endearing friendships are born in the cauldron of adversity.

My most endearing memory of sport engagements is the many lasting friends that were made. None so lasting as the friends made at UWC. Such was the rugby (also sport in general) that we played under the banner of SACOS and its affiliate SARU. Friendships were fostered because we were connected by a common purpose: the participation in non-racial sport. The belief that sport cannot be separated from our daily lived experiences brought us the position: "No normal sport in an abnormal society". Sport, despite its framework of competition and individualism bound communities together in the struggle against apartheid and its separatist base.

I hope and pray that, rugby today will bring friends together across teams locally, provincially and nationally.

Building friendships could form the basis of building communities, communities that stand in solidarity with each other against all forces that strive to divide. Stronger communities, engaged socially, politically and economically can deal effectively with the scourge of corruption and malfeasance at the order of the day.

May today's UWC Rugby teams enjoy long-lasting friendships that contribute to the ethos of lived non-racialism and practiced ubuntu.

Gordon Africa
Deputy President: SA Hockey Board
Representative: SAPPSA, SASSSA and
GW Council of Sport

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UWC 65 Rugby Reunion

What a fantastic initiative to bring together 6 decades of rugby players that made a huge contribution to UWC and South Africa. I'm proud to be part of this initiative and the tradition it will create. May we continue to make an impact in South Africa and ensure that the legacy of UWC will always be part of the proudly South African Rugby History.

Fergus Marupen

This brochure is a tapestry of voices bearing testimony to the 65-year journey of the University of the Western Cape Rugby Club. It offers a glimpse into the resilience of its players, a story of defiance against apartheid's intentions. Today, its players can be found in every corner of the country and elsewhere, engaged in coaching, administration, and the ongoing growth of the game.

'For me, rugby at UWC was always more than a game. I played as an expression of myself, on my own terms, with a decolonised mind. In memory, I have built a monument to both the fallen and the living heroes – lest I forget. As we celebrate this anniversary, let us remember: the UWC Rugby Club is not merely a historic monument. It is a living institution. Its true measure of success lies in its endurance: the same club thrives today, 65 years on. Happy 65th Anniversary, UWC Rugby Club.'
– John Walters

'My path has been exactly that: from dusty fields in the Karoo to the world stage, an assistant coach to the Springboks, I have remained a student of the game, of life, and of people. I will always be grateful to UWC, for the classrooms, the hostel camaraderie, the rugby fields, and the brotherhood that continues to guide me.'
– Deon Davids

'To the women who stepped onto the field that day in 1978: thank you. You proved that courage, talent, and passion know no boundaries. To today's players: keep pushing, keep believing, and make us proud.'

– Jannie Frantz, Aletta Braaff and Ronnie Korkee

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